

Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

Do you support a merger of the Covenant Party and the Republican Party?

Yes	26
No	131
No opinion	17

Sunday, December 19, 2010

INSIDE



Right To Serve

In a historic vote for gay rights, the Senate agreed on Saturday to do away with the military's 17-year ban on openly gay troops.

Nation...Page 14



King Bows Out

Larry King ended his 25-year run at CNN where he used to be all the time—on top of the ratings.

Life & Style...Page 21

Dela Cruz to cancel Tinian's grand New Year fireworks display. PAGE 2
Golden Harvest wins Christmas Tree decoration contest. PAGE 7

DHS issues final investor rule for CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



» 2-year status covers those with \$50,000 minimum investment

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services district director David Gulick, right, gestures while Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Kyle Calabrese looks on at Gulick's news briefing Saturday afternoon on the release of the CNMI E-2 investor regulations, which will be formally published in the Dec. 20 Federal Register, or Tuesday Saipan time.

CNMI Republican Party junks proposed merger with Covenant

» 3 named to elect national GOP chair in January

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

CNMI Republican Party chair Juan I. Tenorio confirmed yesterday that party officials decided on Friday that no merger will happen with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Covenant Party at this time.

"There was a recommendation by the governor to merge the two parties. It's his idea, his plan. Unfortunately, the leadership of the CNMI Republican Party is not ready for a merger," Tenorio told

See CNMI on Page 4

THE NATIVITY

Dressed in an angel costume, Elisha Posadas, 7, takes time to marvel at one of the entries for "The Belen" making contest, which named the best miniature depiction of the Nativity scene, at the 2010 Pistang Pinoy organized by the United Filipino Organization on the grounds of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa Saturday night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued the long-awaited final E-2 CNMI-only investor rule which, among other things, allows eligible foreign long-term investors with a minimum of \$50,000 instead of \$150,000 in investments to remain in the CNMI through Dec. 31, 2014.

See DHS on Page 4

Aliens can change status without leaving CNMI

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services issued on Tuesday a policy memorandum allowing aliens to obtain a non-immigrant status in the CNMI without having to leave the islands.

The policy memorandum takes effect immediately.

David Gulick, district director of USCIS Honolulu District 26, said the grant of status policy memo would affect mostly those who are seeking R status, along with H1B, H2B, and H3 status.

See ALIENS on Page 4



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Local

'2010 good year for Karidat'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Karidat executive director Angie Guerrero deems 2010 a good year for the social service



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Employees of the Hyatt Regency Saipan pose with Karidat volunteers and employees during the presentation of toys last Friday at the hotel lobby. A total of 60 toys have been donated by some 50 hotel employees to bring Christmas spirit to the children in the CNMI that are served by Karidat.

arm in the CNMI despite the economic depression.

"I think it's a good year. Although everybody is in austerity, they are still doing something to help Karidat," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* during Hyatt Regency Saipan's donation on Dec. 17.

Employees of Hyatt Regency Saipan will make children in the Commonwealth happy this holiday season as they donated 60 toys last Friday.

The toys, which will be distributed to children from a few months old to 17 years, were handed to Karidat volunteers and employees led by Guerrero.

"When I heard that the Hyatt staff is doing this, I was really touched because in this time of economic crisis, they are still reaching out to give smiles to children's faces," said Guerrero.

According to Guerrero, the

toys will be distributed to disadvantaged children on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Denise Montenegro, training manager for Hyatt Regency Saipan, said the toy drive among the hotel employees was first carried out years ago but was discontinued.

"Employees felt the need to donate toys to carry out the tradition and help the children of Karidat," she said.

Montenegro said about 50 employees participated in the toy drive for Karidat. "They came in enthusiastically in the spirit of Christmas," she added.

The training manager said they plan to do the toy drive annually and do other activities that would benefit the community like food drives.

"This holiday season, there's always somebody thinking of them," said Montenegro.

Dela Cruz to cancel Tinian's grand New Year fireworks display

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz vowed to cut the municipality's expenditure this fiscal year and for starters is canceling the grand fireworks display traditionally set off by the local government to greet the New Year.

Instead, he encouraged his constituents to join the New Year revelry at Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

"We decided to hold off any grand fireworks display for the New Year celebration because

we can't afford it. I know that Tinian Dynasty will put together a bash strictly for the celebration...so we just encourage our people to join in the said event at the hotel's lobby," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Despite the absence of the traditional fireworks display and other holiday events on Tinian, Dela Cruz said they put up some lighting around the villages to keep the Christmas spirit alive, especially for children.

He said the municipality has only spent less than a \$1,000 for this simple Christmas project that will cheer the people of the island.

The mayor said besides the Christmas lighting project, people could also feel the holiday spirit because of carolers.

"I am hoping that year 2011 will bring better luck for everybody so we will have a grand fireworks display next year," said Dela Cruz.

The mayor said Tinian is operating with a reduced budget of about \$2 million for all its programs. In the past, Tinian was appropriated about \$8 million budget compared to this fiscal year's only about \$5 million.

All its employees—111 in all—are expected to experience 16-hour cut in their salary after the holidays. The effort is in line with the government's across-the-board austerity measures enforced since October as a result of declining revenues and collections.

Besides the work-hour reduction, Dela Cruz said he will also defer hiring for new positions and replacements to save on personnel costs. He said he intends to keep all his personnel until the end of fiscal year in September 2011.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,

CIVIL ACTION NO. 02-0408

-v-

ANGELINA A. MANGLONA, Defendant.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 345 R 404, situated in Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 09 dated September 21, 1984, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 84-2049.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on December 23, 2010, at the hour of 11:30 a.m., at the Superior Court, Sinapalo Village, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 15th day of November, 2010.

/s/ Michael A. White, Auctioneer

Wiseman partially modifies bail of kidnapping, rape suspect

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has partially modified the bail of Alfred P. Hocog, one of the suspects in the kidnapping and rape of a 16-year-old student in Kagman.

In a written order issued on Thursday, Wiseman allowed Hocog to deposit \$10,000 cash or 10 percent of the \$100,000,

along with a real property bond.

Wiseman said other terms and conditions are to be set forth to "reassure the appearance of defendant and to ensure the safety of the community."

"The release of Defendant Hocog on any other terms, at this time, would be inadequate to protect the community and prevent the risk of flight of Defendant," the judge said.

Hocog filed a second motion

for bail modification on Aug. 16, 2010. He requested that the \$100,000 bail amount be reduced to \$40,000.

The defendant further requested that he be released upon the posting of \$2,000 to his

See **WISEMAN** on Next Page

Terminated UMDA official files lawsuit

A former official of the United Micronesia Development Association Inc. has sued UMDA over his termination in December 2009, which according to him was without cause.

Hiroyuki Saito, through counsel Mark A. Scoggins, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order UMDA to arbitrate their dispute in accordance with the terms of their contract.

Saito, a Japanese national, demanded damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Saipan Tribune tried to get a comment from UMDA's counsel yesterday, but there was no response as of press time.

UMDA chairman Joe Lifofoi, however, in his letter dated Dec. 8, 2009 informed Saito that he was eliminated within the company due to financial constraints.

Lifofoi also explained that the functions between UMDA and the Palms Resort have been consolidated.

Scoggins stated in the complaint that the term of the contract between Saito and UMDA began on March 30, 2007 and was set to expire on March 29, 2009.

Prior to expiration of the contract, Saito began discussing a possible renewal with his im-

mediate supervisor, then president and chief executive officer of UMDA, Russell Snow.

Scoggins said Snow renewed Saito's contract with UMDA on the same terms.

Scoggins said plaintiff's contract was to continue until March 29, 2011.

The lawyer said that, on Dec. 7, 2009, Saito was called into a meeting at UMDA's main office with Lifofoi.

At the meeting, the plaintiff was informed that he was being terminated effective immediately.

Scoggins said that, on the following day Saito received a letter from Lifofoi about his termination.

Scoggins said under the terms of the employment contract, his client is entitled to continued compensation and housing allowance for the balance of his contract.

He said Saito is also entitled to receive deferred compensation; bonuses; and medical, dental, life insurance, and other benefits.

"UMDA breached the contract with Mr. Saito by terminating him without providing the contractually required compensation and benefits," the lawyer said. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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CNMI

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune in a phone interview.

At the same time, the local Republican leadership has finalized the list of three individuals who will represent the CNMI in the election of a Republican National Committee chair either in California or Washington, D.C. in January 2011.

Tenorio said he as chairman will be among the three, along with “Bo” Palacios and Marylou Ada.

He said the three-member committee to help elect an RNC chair either in California or Washington, D.C. “will have to be in the states before Jan. 12.”

The CNMI has three votes in the Republican National Committee, equal to

the votes from every other U.S. state and territory, for a total of 168.

Incumbent RNC chair Michael Steele visited Saipan for the first time in September to publicly endorse the delegate candidacy of former governor Juan N. Babauta. Babauta lost to incumbent delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan. Fitial welcomed Steele at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport.

But Tenorio said the CNMI Republican Party officials—including the officers, the incumbent Republicans, and precinct club chairs—have to be solid on who to vote as RNC chair. But most likely, the CNMI representatives to the national GOP chair election will vote for Steele, Republicans here said.

Tenorio also said the planned Dec. 21 meeting of the CNMI Republican

Party to elect a chairwoman for the election committee has been cancelled as of Friday when the party officials held a meeting.

There were talks that the Covenant Party wanted Ada to be replaced with Viola Alepuyo, the wife of former delegate candidate Joseph N. Camacho of the Covenant Party. But Tenorio said yesterday that this “is just a rumor and will stay that way.”

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), in a separate interview yesterday, said he is “very happy” with the decision of the Republican officers in naming the three representatives to the national GOP chair election.

Benavente, Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) and most of the incumbent Republican officials strongly

oppose a “merger” with the Covenant Party, but said they welcome anybody to join the Republican Party.

Fitial told reporters two weeks ago that he’s going back to his old party. Fitial was a member of the CNMI Republican Party until he formed his own Covenant Party in 2001 for his gubernatorial bid. While he lost that time, he won in his second attempt in 2005. He is no longer eligible to seek

a third term.

The CNMI Republican Party is the only party in the CNMI that is recognized nationally. Republicans said the governor may have recognized the need to develop closer relationships with members of Congress but cannot do so solidly because he is not affiliated with a nationally “recognized” political party, either Democrat or Republican.

ALIENS

From Page 1

R-1 is for temporary religious workers, while R-2 is for the spouse/children of an R-1.

“These are the main groups that should be taking advantage of that policy... That will save people some trips; they don’t need to travel outside to get their status,” Gulick said at a news briefing on Saturday about the policy memo.

In most cases, an individual in the U.S. without a non-immigrant status needs to leave the country in order to obtain a non-immigrant classification.

But the USCIS has made exceptions for individuals in the CNMI with CNMI permits or parole authorization.

“If you are a CNMI worker with a valid CNMI work permit or parole status, immigration officials may consider you lawfully present in the CNMI for the purposes of obtaining a grant of initial grant of status,” the USCIS said.

The USCIS is one of the component agencies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security which is the lead agency overseeing the federal takeover of CNMI immigration.

Those who are eligible for an initial

grant of status are those who are lawfully present in the CNMI, were present in the CNMI before Nov. 28, 2009, do not currently hold a non-immigrant classification, and are admissible.

The policy memo applies to and binds all USCIS employees who adjudicate petitions and applications for non-immigrant status.

It adds Chapter 36.4 to the Adjudicator’s Field Manual, “Waivers of Inadmissibility and Grants of Status for Certain Aliens Seeking Nonimmigrant Status in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”

USCIS said allowing for the grant of nonimmigrant status to eligible aliens who are physically present in the CNMI will help encourage these aliens and their employers to seek an appropriate, federal immigration status for themselves and their employees.

“This (policy memo) is consistent with congressional intent to promote as rapid and smooth a transition as possible from former CNMI statuses to federally based statuses,” the federal agency added.

More information is available at <http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Laws/Memoranda/2010/December/cnmi-status.pdf>.

DHS

From Page 1

Eligible investors can start applying for this status on Jan. 18, 2011.

DHS’ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said petitions received prior to Jan. 18, 2011 will be rejected.

The E2 CNMI investor visa is valid for two years, is renewable, and is valid only in the CNMI.

The investor’s spouse and children may also apply for a status as dependents of the investor.

DHS issued the final investor rule almost 15 months after U.S. Public Law 110-229, which placed CNMI immigration under federal control, required them to publish it.

By the end of the federalization transition period on Dec. 31, 2014, these investors are required to obtain another U.S. immigrant or nonimmigrant visa classification.

The E-2 CNMI investor rule will be published in the Federal Register on Dec. 20 in Washington, D.C. or Tuesday, Saipan time.

It is now available for review at http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2010-31652_PL.pdf.

Those eligible to apply for the E-2 CNMI investor status include long-term business investors, foreign investors, and retiree foreign investors.

Major change

David Gulick, district director of USCIS Honolulu District 26, said the reduction in investment for eligibility to apply for an investor status is the “major change” in the proposed rule.

He said DHS made a great deal in considering the 13 comments received.

“What I personally hope people would realize is that if you read the comment section, that peoples’ comments were seriously considered. In fact, there was one change in the rule, the \$50,000 from \$150,000... We do take comments seriously,” Gulick said at a news conference on Saturday afternoon.

Gulick also briefed some stakeholders in the CNMI community about the final rule, which provides the procedures to obtain status as an E-2 CNMI investor.

Were it not for this modification in the proposed rule, most of the estimated 500 long-term foreign investors in the CNMI would not qualify to apply for this status because their minimum investments do not meet the \$150,000 proposed threshold.

This goes along with DHS’ goal and U.S. Congress’ intent of minimizing the potential adverse economic impact of P.L. 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act which was signed in May 2008 but took effect on Nov. 28, 2009, with a transition period ending Dec. 31, 2014.

The final rule also clarifies the authority and process by which applicants in the CNMI can be granted E-2 CNMI investor status in the CNMI without having to travel abroad to obtain a nonimmigrant visa.

No worker rules yet

During the news briefing, Gulick said the transitional worker regulations are still being developed.

He said there’s no telling when those will be published, along with the final rule on the tourist visa waiver program.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, for his part, said while DHS has made progress by issuing the investor regulation, he continues to stress to DHS officials that all regulations implementing P.L. 110-229 “must be issued, particularly the CNMI-only Transition Worker Classification.”

“The delays continue to cause harm to our struggling economy and are contrary to the intent of the law,” he said.

Other stakeholders have yet to fully review the investor rule, and have deferred comment at this time.

If you need more information

Gulick said he will be on Saipan until Wednesday, Dec. 22, and will make himself available to investors who have questions about the E-2 CNMI investor rule.

He said investors can walk in and see him if he’s at the Saipan Application Support Center at the TSL Plaza in Garapan between today and Wednesday.

After Wednesday, investors need to make Infopass appointments to ask questions about the investor rule.

Gulick said he will be visiting the Japanese Consulate on the investor rule, and will also make himself available for presentations to representatives of the Korean business community, the Chinese business community, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and other stakeholders in the CNMI.

In the second to fourth week of January 2011, USCIS will send a team of experts to the CNMI to make presentations and answer specific questions about the investor rule.

“Included in that team will be representatives of the California Service Center, which will be the one handling these petitions. They will be able to meet with all you guys to go over the regulation, they will have power point presentation, they will be able to answer questions in depth,” Gulick said.

He said the holiday break will give investors and other stakeholders a chance to go over the investor rule and formulate specific questions they may have, in time for the visit of the USCIS representatives from California.

Fees, qualification

The current processing fee for Form I-129 is \$325, plus an \$85 biometrics fee for certain beneficiaries who require an initial grant of status in the CNMI.

Fee waivers for inability to pay are available.

To qualify for E-2 CNMI investor status, the applicant must:

- Have been admitted to the CNMI with a long-term investor visa under CNMI immigration law before Nov. 28, 2009;
- Have continuously maintained residence in the CNMI under long-term investor status;
- Currently maintain the investment(s) that formed the basis for the CNMI long-term investor status; and
- Otherwise be admissible to the United States under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act.

Investors who were admitted to the CNMI in long-term investor status under CNMI immigration law qualify to apply for an E-2 CNMI investor status.

They include long-term business investors that the CNMI issued a long-term business certificate based upon an investment of at least \$50,000.

They also include those with a foreign investment certificate issued by the CNMI based upon an investment of at least \$100,000 in an aggregate approved investment in excess of \$2 million or at least \$250,000 in a single approved investment.

Investors eligible also include retiree investors over the age of 55 years who were issued a foreign retiree investment certificate based upon a qualifying investment in an approved residence in the CNMI, but not including the two-year non-renewable retiree investor program limited to Japanese nationals.

WISEMAN

From Page 3

father as third-party custodian, along with the posting of property bond valued at \$40,000.

Wiseman modified the bail conditions by reducing the amount of bail to \$75,000, allowing a 10 percent deposit and a \$40,000 property bond.

On Aug. 17, 2010, the government filed a motion for reconsideration of the court’s ruling.

After hearing the government’s motion on Aug. 19, 2010, Wiseman vacated his bench ruling and issued a written decision denying any bail modification at that time.

Hocog, through counsel Joaquin DLG. Torres, then filed another bail modification. The court heard the motion on Dec. 7, 2010.

In his written order issued last week, Wiseman said he does not find that Hocog’s present motion presents any new arguments or change of circumstances.

However, Wiseman said, during argument Hocog stated that with respect to the weight of evidence, the government cannot produce the name or identity of the “concerned citizen” who the government previously identified as Hocog.

Wiseman said when asked by the court, the government, through assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher, conceded that it did not have the “concerned citizen” that it previously thought it had.

“But for this one factor of the ‘concerned citizen’ the court finds defendant has not presented any other information or reasons for bail modification that was not presented during the pre-

vious bail modification motions,” the judge said.

Wiseman reiterated his earlier findings that the weight of the evidence against Hocog is substantial.

Wiseman said although the alleged crimes were committed with other co-defendants, Hocog according to the testimony at the preliminary hearing, was the principal attacker and the one who continuously beat the victim unconscious.

In considering the weight of the evidence, Wiseman said the defense argued that the only evidence against the defendant is the confession of a co-defendant.

The defense asserted that the co-defendant is not credible because of a motivation to cooperate with the government in exchange for a “sweetheart deal.”

Wiseman said as the government points out, the co-defendant’s deal includes a prison term of 40 years with at least 10 to 20 years to serve.

Wiseman said he can modify some of Hocog’s release conditions in view of the “concerned citizen” factor, since this tends to reduce the weight of the evidence against him.

However, the judge noted, this factor alone is inadequate to modify any substantial conditions, such as reducing the \$100,000 bail to \$75,000 and a 10 percent deposit thereon.

Angel Jess Santos, one of Hocog’s alleged co-conspirators, has identified Hocog, and has agreed to testify against this defendant.

Hocog and his co-defendants, Joseph C. Camacho Jr. and Ivan Jones Castro will go on trial on Jan. 3, 2011.

Police said the student was walking toward Kagman High School when the suspects beat her up, took her to Tank Beach, and raped her.

Non-implementation of pension system disappoints Fund board

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees expressed Friday their disappointment on the non-implementation of a pension system that has been in the planning stages in the last two years.

Board chair Sixto Igisomar admitted that a comprehensive report on the new pension system's status is due this week for the board's review and assessment.

"There are a lot of errors on the new system and that's the challenge we have now. We hired a new contractor to evaluate this system and they're telling us that yes we can use it or maybe we can use it...so we need to find out. But obviously, we will make sure that if doesn't work somebody will pay. We are waiting for the report," admitted Igisomar.

Saipan Tribune learned that the pension system project should've been completed and successfully rolled out by September 2008.

But as of to date, the database software has not been fully implemented. An independent audit report for FY 2009 also indicated that the project's vendor violated the

contract, which already has been paid in full.

Igisomar refused to disclosed the project contractor and the amount paid by the Fund for the pension system.

"It's a very substantial amount and this project was initiated even before my term as chairman of the board. For now, let's wait for the report so we can have full information where we are heading. It's important for the Fund to solve this issue," he said during the board meeting.

Saipan Tribune learned that the involved cost is beyond \$190,000 and the pension system project is important for cost-effectiveness and making sure that everything

is efficient.

"Supposedly if this product have been delivered back then in proper format, it would made easy for our administrator to track everything," he said.

It was learned that the contract's violation for the database system project was just one of the five audit findings noted in the FY2009 report.

Igisomar, meantime, described as very minimal the fee for the new contractor hired by the Fund to evaluate the product of the previous contractor. He said the board will seek the board counsel's recommendation on the viability of pursuing the project if this will incur additional cost to the agency.

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- ✓ Volunteer at a local group that serves people living with HIV.
- ✓ Ask our leaders to increase their awareness and response to HIV.



For more Information, Testing and Confidential Services,
Contact the HIV/STD Resource & Treatment Center at 664-4050
www.avert.org/world-aids-day.htm www.worldaidscampaign.org www.aids.gov/world-aids-day/
Paid for with funds from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Seasons Greetings



We'd like to extend our warmest holiday greetings and wish everyone good health, happiness and peace. The gift of sight is a very precious one; treasure it always.

HARDT
EYE CLINIC

We're here to help and to answer any questions you may have, whether simple or complicated.

235-2030



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Specials

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- Inspect and rotate tires
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- Adjust belts
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Starting at
\$99⁹⁵*



*4 cylinder vehicles only. 6+ cylinder vehicles & above starting at \$109.95. Disposal fee not included and some restrictions apply. Service recommended every 6 months or 6,000 miles. Keep your brakes and engine oil clean! Offer good for a limited time only.

Plus, receive a
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Exterior Car Wash & Interior Vacuum
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DuraFresh Organica scent can



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Society for Human Resource Management
(SHRM) CNMI Chapter

Presents



HEALTH CARE REFORM

Major Changes for the CNMI

Tuesday, December 21, 2010
Saipan World Resort
Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

Conference Agenda

7:30 – 8:30 am	Registration & Refreshments
8:30 – 8:40 am	Opening Remarks Eric L. Plinske <i>President, SHRM CNMI Chapter</i> <i>Branch Manager, StayWell Saipan, Inc.</i>
8:40 – 9:00 am	Perspectives on Health Care Reform Katherine Dote, SPHR <i>State Director, SHRM Pacific Council (Guam & CNMI)</i> <i>Director of Human Resources, Guam Marriott Resort & Spa</i>
9:00 – 9:30 am	The Importance of Health Care Reform for the CNMI The Honorable Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan <i>Congressman for the CNMI, United States House of Representatives</i>
9:30 – 10:00 am	Impact of Health Care Reform on Public Health & Medical Referral ■ Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Health Secretary <i>CNMI Department of Public Health</i>
10:00 – 10:15 am	15 Minute Break
10:15 – 11:30 am	Major Changes in the Health Insurance Industry <i>Panel Speakers:</i> ■ Frank Campillo, Health Plan Administrator <i>Calvo's SelectCare Health Plans</i> ■ Donald B. Davis, President & CEO <i>StayWell Guam, Inc.</i> ■ Francis E. Santos, Associate Administrator <i>StayWell Guam, Inc.</i> ■ Gina Ramos, Chief of Staff <i>TakeCare Insurance Company</i> ■ Jerry Crisostomo, Plan Administrator <i>Moylan's NetCare Life & Health Insurance</i>
TOPICS What are the major insurance benefit changes? ■ Is health insurance required? What are "grandfather rules" and how do they affect you? ■ What will be the impact on rates? What happens in 2014? ■ Questions & Answers	
11:30 – 12:00 noon	Regulating the CNMI Health Insurance Industry Sixto Igisomar, Acting Secretary of Commerce/Insurance Commissioner <i>CNMI Department of Commerce</i>
12:00 – 1:15 pm	Lunch
1:15 – 1:45 pm	Changes in the Medicare Program Bridget M. Camacho, District Manager <i>U. S. Social Security Administration – Saipan Office</i>
1:45 – 2:15 pm	Impact of Health Care Reform on the CNMI Medicaid Program Helen C. Sablan, Administrator <i>CNMI Medicaid Program</i>
2:15 – 3:30 pm	Perspectives from CNMI Private Health Care Providers <i>Panel Speakers:</i> ■ Dr. Norma Ada, Physician/Owner <i>Medical Associates of the Pacific</i> ■ Thelma Cabrera, Operations Manager <i>Marianas Medical Center</i> ■ George Cruz, President <i>Marianas Health Services</i> ■ Natalie Codianne, Pharmacist <i>PHI Pharmacy</i>
3:30 pm	Summary & Closing Remarks Polly DLG Masga <i>Vice President / President Elect, SHRM CNMI Chapter</i> <i>Human Resources Manager, Pacific Islands Club Saipan</i>

\$40 SHRM members

\$60 SHRM nonmembers

Seats are limited, sign up now!

For registration, please call Polly DLG Masga at 237-5122 or email her at pollydlg@gmail.com

BRUCE L. MAILMAN
CNMI BAR ASSN #F0153
MAILMAN & KARA, LLC
PMB 238, Box 10,000
Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

LPP MORTGAGE, LTD.,
Plaintiff,
-v-
MARIANO TEDIL
ALDAN, aka MARINO
TEDIL ALDAN,
Defendant.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on December 13, 2010, in this matter, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendant Mariano Tedil Aldan aka Marino Tedil Aldan in and to the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:
LOT 010 K 121, containing an area of 991 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01 dated August 19, 1987, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 87-2911 dated August 19, 1987.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on January 7, 2011, at the hour of 3:30 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

- Reserve.** The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
- Rights and duties of auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
- Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
- Disputes.** The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

- Deposit.** Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
- Memorandum of Sale.** If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
- Court Approval.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is sought, and if and when it is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 16th day of December, 2010:

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

IN ICE PROBE ON DRIVER'S LICENSE SCAM

Despite cooperation, wife of defendant charged separately

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has filed a separate complaint against the wife of an auto shop owner who was arrested last week by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for his alleged involvement in the driver's license scam at the Department of Public Safety.

According to documents filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI by assistant U.S. attorney Kirk W. Schuler, although Tahira Dolores Miah, wife of defendant Mohammad Jahangir Miah, is cooperating with law enforcement a complaint against her was still filed. Schuler did not indicate what charges were filed against Mrs. Miah.

"Unless Mr. Miah's initial appearance is delayed, his initial appearance will jeopardize Mrs. Miah's ability to cooperate," said Schuler in the U.S. government's motion to delay Mr. Miah's initial court appearance filed last Monday.

On that same day (last Monday), U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Fremming Nielsen granted the U.S. government's motion to delay Mr. Miah's initial court appearance.

At the hearing last Thursday, Nielsen granted Mr. Miah's court-appointed counsel Steven Pixley's request to continue the hearing to allow him more time to review documents. The judge remanded Mr. Miah to the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

During a hearing last Friday, the judge unsealed the case against Mr. Miah and denied him bail "at this time."

Schuler said Mr. Miah was arrested on charges of unlawful transfer of identification document on the afternoon of Dec. 12, 2010 and that after initially invoking his constitutional rights, he approached law enforcement and subsequently waived his rights.

After waiving his constitutional rights, Mr. Miah agreed to actively cooperate with law enforcement, according to the prosecutor.

The complaint against Mr. Miah was filed under seal last Monday as investigation was then ongoing.

ICE special agent Mark D. Yamanaka stated in his report that on May 6, 2010 a cooperating source placed an unrecorded phone call to a Chinese female that is known to help foreign nationals obtain CNMI driver's licenses.

Yamanaka said during the phone call, the cooperating source asked the Chinese female if she would help the cooperating source's friends obtain CNMI driver's licenses.

Yamanaka said that, on May 14, 2010, the cooperating source introduced a second cooperating source to the Chinese female. After their short conversation, Mr. Miah picked them up in a Toyota Corolla.

Yamanaka said Mr. Miah transported the Chinese female, the two cooperating sources from the restaurant to the DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicles in Susupe.

At BMV, the special agent said, Mr. Miah filled out the application for the second cooperating source with the help of the Chinese female.

Mr. Miah told the Chinese female to have the second cooperating source sign it, which he/she did.

Yamanaka said they learned that the second cooperating source obtained a driver's license by providing a photocopy of his/her foreign passport to the Chinese female, signing a document, sitting for a photograph inside the BMV, and paying the Chinese female \$400.

The driver's license obtained by the second cooperating source indicated that the license was a "renewal" and that the second cooperating source had previously received a driver's license from Saipan.

Yamanaka said at no time did the second cooperating source take an eye test, a written driver's test, or a driver's road test in order to obtain his/her driver's license.

He said the second cooperating source had never previously received a driver's license on Saipan.

Police arrested Mr. Miah in July 2010 for allegedly stealing vehicles and falsifying their certificates of ownership. On Aug. 9, 2010, police arrested Mr. Miah and his wife on charges they stole a vehicle and falsified its certificate of ownership.

In late August 2010, the Superior Court dismissed the charges against the Miah couple in one case.

Police arrested Mr. Miah again in September 2010 on the same charges.

In 2006, the Superior Court sentenced Mr. Miah to three years in prison for forging CNMI Labor and Immigration documents to collect money from an alien worker.

Golden Harvest wins Christmas Tree decoration contest

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Golden Harvest International School bagged the coveted grand prize of \$5,000 Thursday night after winning in the 5th Christmas Tree Decorating Contest at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

The first-time participant garnered a total of 398 points from contest judges, besting 15 other elementary schools that took part in the annual holiday activity organized by PDM Promoters Inc.

"We're very happy to win because all the labor that the students have put into this decoration contest have paid off," said Liz Espiritu, Golden Harvest School teacher coordinator for the decoration contest, after they received their prize.

Espiritu told *Saipan Tribune* that a total of 28 students from first to fourth grade participated in decorating the 9-foot Christmas tree.

"It took us one month to finish doing the Christmas ornaments but we started collecting recyclable materials to be used for the decoration contest as early as September," she said.

Espiritu disclosed that it was the students who came up with their theme for their entry in the decoration contest, which is Round Christmas.

"Everything we made was all round. The students were



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of Golden Harvest International School hold their check and certificate during the awarding ceremony of the 5th Christmas Tree Decorating Contest last Thursday at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan. The school, which participated for the first time in the annual holiday activity, bagged first place with 398 points and won \$5,000 courtesy of RNV Construction Inc.

all creative and talented and they're the ones who suggested the theme. The teachers only improved it," she said.

According to Espiritu, they used empty water bottles, bottle caps, butane caps, soda cans, and old CDs to create their round Christmas decors.

Espiritu admitted that they never expected to emerge as winner, believing that their closest competitor would be

last year's champion, the Joshua Generation International Academy.

However, last year's front-runner came in third with 389 points, winning \$2,000 courtesy of Country House Restaurant.

Oleai Elementary School took home the second prize of \$3,000 donated by Kinpachi Restaurant after earning 394 points.

The schools that made it to

"The Magic Three" and earned \$1,000 each were Koblerville Elementary School, Saipan Community School, and Dandan Elementary School.

A \$500 consolation prize was each awarded to Kagman Elementary School, William Reyes Elementary School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, San Antonio Elementary School, Tanapag Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary

School, Green Meadow School, Agape Christian School, Garapan Elementary School, and Grace Christian Academy.

Judges included First Lady Josie Fitial, Jerry Tan of Fiesta Resort & Spa, Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Galleria, James Nelson of Docomo Pacific, Gordon Marciano of PDI, Tina Palacios of Sorensen Media Group, Martin Duenas of Marianas Visitors Authority, Lisa Huynh Eller and Joe Kaipat of Division of Environmental Quality, and Ruel Villacrusis of RNV Construction.

Holiday greetings drawing contest

PDM Promoters also named the winners in the 4th My Holiday Greetings to Our Visitors

drawing contest held among elementary students from Tinian and Rota.

A total of 34 entries were judged from Sinapalo Elementary School and 45 from Tinian Elementary School.

Rota winners were Raven Charfauros, first place; Venda Bridilia Mesgon Maratita, second place; and Jacelyn Aquino Atalig, third place.

For Tinian, first place went to Jemimah Edith C. Cruz; second place to Ha'ani K. Aldan; and third place to Kiana Lizama.

First placers received \$50, second placers got \$30, while third places brought home \$20 each.

All student winners also received gift kits from PDM Promoters.

Judge postpones sentencing of fatal assault suspect

The Superior Court has set a new sentencing date for Shane Jonathan Hocog, the suspect who entered a guilty plea over the fatal assault of a man near Kagman High School.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos vacated Thursday's (Dec. 16) original sentencing date and set the new sentencing hearing on Feb. 9, 2011 at 2:30pm.

The court allowed the postponement as agreed by the prosecution and the defense counsel.

The 22-year-old Hocog signed a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter.

Assistant Attorney General Eli Golob has recommended a sentence of five years in jail, a

restitution of \$14,075.37, and three years probation.

Golob said the cause of death was the trauma Larry Garcia Gonzales sustained as a result of Hocog's punch.

Golob said the defendant punched Gonzales once, and did not appear to contemplate that his conduct would cause or threaten serious harm.

Police said Hocog in a fit of jealousy punched Gonzales in the face on March 1, 2010. The victim was pronounced dead by a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center on March 4, 2010 due to severe head injury. Autopsy showed that the victim died due to brain contusion and laceration. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on December 21, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before December 21.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than December 21. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.



Life in Motion

Attn: Contractors, Hardware Stores, Government Agencies, Project Managers

Warehouse Inventory Sale – Everything Must Go. Selling at Less than Landed Cost

For BULK Purchases Only While Supplies Last

ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, HARDWARE ITEMS.

2" CONCRETE NAIL 55 BOXES (50LBS) \$25.00 PER BOX (CALL FOR LOT PRICE)

CERAMIC FLOOR TILE #3895 12" X 12" – 510 PIECES ENTIRE LOT \$280.00

GLASS BLOCK – ICE FLOWER DESIGN 8" X 8" – 504 PCS ENTIRE LOT \$750.00

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE: BLOCK PLANT MACHINE, RIPPING MACHINE, ALUMINUM TRUCK BEDS, VENDING MACHINES – MAKE OFFER

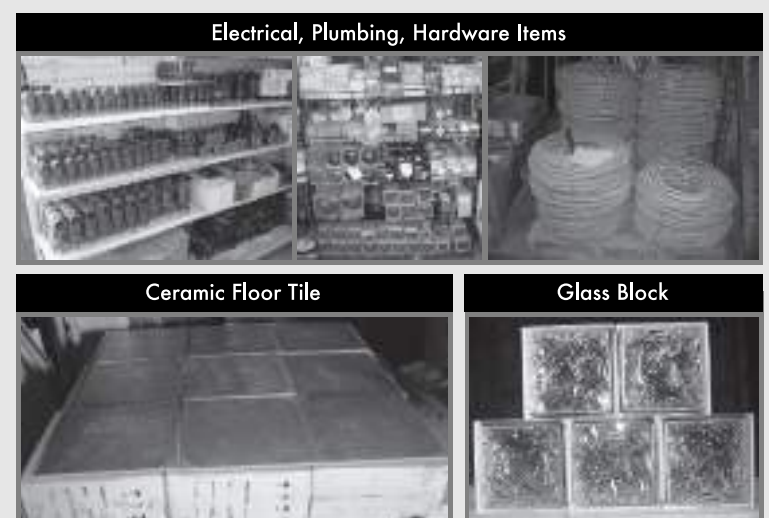
Contact Conrad Jr. at 235-9020, Cell No. 888-8948,

Email conradsbln@gmail.com.

Ask for Inventory List. We can email or deliver hard copy.

Ask for Special Pricing for Entire Lot Purchase.


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Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipattamenton I Tano' Pubpliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSIONS FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extensions of leases on certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These lease extensions are subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The leased premises are described as public land Lot Nos. 057 E 09, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, and 057 E 10, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, both situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The lessee is South Pacific Lumber Company, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are James C. Whang and Charles C. Whang.

The President/Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation is James C. Whang. The Vice President is Charles C. Whang.
- iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. James C. Whang.
- iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating warehouses, office spaces and show rooms.

The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.
- v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 24, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN INEKSTENDEN INATKILON TANO' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pubpliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku guini ha nã'i notisia ni intesion-ña para u rekomenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tãno' pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Este na inekstenden atkilon siha manmasuheto para i inapreban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas gi sigun ni mamãnda ni mapega huyong gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha hãyi na petsona siha gi halom i pupbliku henerãt siha ha na'hãlom i infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tãno' pupbliku. Sigi mãs mo' na mapribeniyi ginen i Lain Pubpliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesen infotmasion ni madimãnda ni debi na u mapupblika.

- i. I lugãt atkilon siha madeskribe komu tano' pupbliku Lot Nos. 057 E 09, kinonsiste ãrian kãsi guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus mãs, yan 057 E10, kinonsiste ãria kãsi guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus mãs, parehu gaige gi Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugãt gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha ni para i rikonosimiento.
- ii. I manatikikila i Kompanian i South Pacific Lumber, i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpon i Direktot i Corporation siha si James C. Whang yan si Charles C. Whang.

I Presidente/sekritãrio/Tresureron i Corporation si James C. Whang. I Segundo na Presidente si Charles C. Whang.
- iii. I mapropone na ekstension atkilon manegosio gi as Siñot James C. Whang.
- iv. I manatikikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugãt siha uniku para i rason i maneran warehouses, kãmpon ofisina siha yan show rooms.

I teman i kontrãtan atkilon ha ekstende gi 15 ãños.

I mapropone na atkilon sãkkã durãnten i tema sigun i percentage gi bãlen i fair market value gi propiadãt siha.
- v. Kopian i manmapropone na ekstension atkilon na kontrãta siha siña machule' gi ofisinan i Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha, gaige i segundo bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Songsong, Luta; pat i primet 1st floor gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. I Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha tãya' ha risibi tinahguen propositu siha para suheton atkilon tãno' pupbliku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. I Sekritãrion i Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha debi na u akseptã i tinige' i infotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat ãntes di Disembre 24, 2010 gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha ni gaige Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tãlil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekki atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Kkapsal akkilon ye e sobwosobw nge ebwe alughulugh mereel Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature sangi Article XI, Talil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Commonwealth Teel faluw kka faluwasch Efang Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiighiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoorã, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekki bwáari Lot No. 057 E 09, eyoor eluuw sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3, 245 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, me 057 E 10, eyoor eluuw sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3,245 square meters) elap me ngare eghus, elo Lower Base, Seipel.. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge South Pacific Lumber Company, CNMI corporation. Schóóy Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellól corporation nge James C. Whang me Charles C. Whang..

Samwoolul/Treasurer/Sekkretorial corporation nge James C. Whang. Aruscheyil samwool nge Charles Whang.
- iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. James C. Whang..
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yáali bwuley reel ammwelil warehouse (sokko), office spaces (leliyal bwulasiyo) me leliyal akkate (show rooms)..

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years).

Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sãngi llapal méél falúw (value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú mellol bwuley yeel.
- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songson, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipél..
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal December 24, 2010 (Tumwur) mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Fund: Gov't life insurance coverage likely to be extended

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Life insurance policy for active government employees will likely be extended for a few months after insurance carrier Individual Assurance Company accepted the “ongoing” negotiations with the administration.

This was what NMI Retirement Fund board of trustee’s chair Sixto Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune* last Friday, describing the series of meetings with all parties involved as “for the best interest of employees.”

“There’s an indication that they [carrier] will allow extension. I can’t say how many months it will be, but that’s something going around now,” said Igisomar.

IAC’s contract is set to expire on Dec. 31. The life insurance coverage was expected to expire on Aug. 31 unless parties could negotiate a single and affordable policy for all. IAC extended the coverage for another three months to give the administration ample time.

Igisomar said the administration is still working with the Legislature on the passage of House Bill 17-77, which proposes to amend in its entirety a law codified as the “Retirement Fund Contribution to Life Insurance” so that the Fund can negotiate for only one group life insurance for both retirees and active government employees.

The measure is still pending at the Senate.

The government-run GHLIP is under the auspices of the NMI Retirement Fund. The Fund earlier disclosed that the government will be able to save some \$1.5 million annually if a single policy for all is negotiated.

Fund officials disclosed that IAC is not willing to provide life insurance coverage of up to \$20,000 per member.

Some lawmakers earlier opposed the passage of the legislation because they are concerned about the low benefits that may result from a single insurance coverage.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday greetings go out to Michelle Reme Camacho Takai. May you have a very blessed birthday. You're finally 17!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 20, 1999

New site for cemetery proposed

Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider has proposed a new site for the planned public cemetery in Marpi after an initial measure was thumbed down last week by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio due to unavailability and inappropriateness of the identified public lands. Under House Bill 11-509, the lots will encompass areas surrounding the Veterans Cemetery, with total land area equivalent to nearly 70,000 square meters. Mr. Hofschneider also granted sole administration of the new Marpi public cemetery to the Department of Public Health as recommended by the governor when he vetoed the original proposal last week.

Senate confirms Aldan's appointment to BPL

After a short delay, former Board of Public Lands Chairman Tomas B. Aldan on Friday won unanimous support of the senators for his re-appointment to the policy-making body. The Senate Committee on Executive Appointment and Governmental Investigations endorsed his nomination after examining his credentials and weighing his abilities to seat in the board. According to a committee report, members were “convinced that Mr. Aldan has great interest in continuing to serve on this same board for the next four years again. He has proven himself capable and had great achievements in his past term.”

Dec. 20, 2000

Saipan-Tinian bridge plan revived

Senators are reviving a much sought-after plan to construct a hanging bridge between Saipan and Tinian that will link the two islands and improve transportation. But they want to add another project in their proposal—this time to build another bridge to connect Talafofo Falls and Bird Island on Saipan. In a resolution adopted at yesterday’s session, the upper house appealed to the U.S. Department of Transportation for \$1.5 million to fund feasibility studies for the construction of the two bridges. These projects will help enhance transportation mode in the CNMI and stir business activities on the two islands as well as in the two popular Saipan tourist sites, according to the measure sponsored by Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano of Tinian.

Tinian leaders at odds on budget

If the Revised Gaming Control Act of 1989 only allows the use of funds from the industry for “local purpose,” is the leadership allowed to earmark funds to defray statewide programs? Furthermore, are the legislative delegation and municipal council allowed to set aside \$100,000 for spending sprees and does it fall under the definition of “local purpose” as per the act? Disagreement on these two issues have delayed timely review of the local government’s budget three months into the new fiscal year. There’s also disagreement over how much money should go for individual programs for FY 2001.

Dec. 20, 2001

DPW told to rid Tanapag shore of waste

The Coastal Resources Management Office yesterday warned the Department of Public Works for its alleged failure to remove the stockpile of automotive batteries, transformers with polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs, and 55-gallon drums containing waste oil near the shoreline in Tanapag. The CRM also threatened to impose a maximum penalty against the public works department. The waste, which had been stocked for several months now, may be polluting the Saipan Lagoon, which is just a few meters away, said CRM acting administrator Joaquin D. Salas. “During heavy rainstorms, this area receives storm water which then discharges out to the Tanapag Lagoon, possibly carrying along contaminants from these materials,” Salas said.

NMHC signs home financing deal with HSBC

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Ltd. yesterday signed a residential financing agreement, as part of efforts to make home ownership a possibility even among low-income families. Under the Collaboration Guaranty Resident Loans to Qualified Borrowers agreement, NMHC Board Chair Juan S. Tenorio said that HSBC will be providing guaranteed loans to borrowers for purposes of constructing homes, home improvements, and purchasing single family residential homes. Tenorio said that the agreement will enable the NMHC to further enhance residential loan assistance to borrowers.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Farzana Syed presents a dance number.

Bangladesh community celebrates Victory Day

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Bangladeshis on Saipan celebrated Victory Day last Dec. 16 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

About 160 members took part in commemorating the 39th anniversary the Victory Day which is considered a national holiday in Bangladesh.

Bangladeshi Cultural Group president Rakidul "Mintu" Islam welcomed Bangladeshis and friends, including Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown, Dr. Jack Hardy, Atty. Joe Hill, *Korean Weekly Newspaper* publisher Simon Sin, and Pilipino Contract Workers Association president Ronnie Doca.

Program coordinator Rabby

Syed said Thursday's celebration featured cultural presentations from Bangladesh performers that included song and dance numbers, a violin performance, a comedy act, as well as poetry reading.

Syed told *Saipan Tribune* that for the first time, they had a film showing of the 1971 documentary film created by famous Bangladeshi film director Zaheer Raihan called "Stop Genocide."

He said 33 Bangladeshis were also given recognition for their efforts and contributions in the community.

"On this celebration of Victory Day, we can learn that nothing is impossible. Bangladeshis can learn from this event and learn to move forward," said Syed.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Friends of the Bangladeshi community award certificates to Bangladeshis for their contributions to the community.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Program coordinator Rabby Syed and Shirin Aktar served as emcees for the Victory Day program.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bangladeshis perform their national anthem before the start of the Victory Day celebration.

Have a Safe Holiday Season.

**National/CNMI Holiday Season
Impaired Driving Month**
November 29, 2010 through January 3, 2011



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BAM! YOUR LIFE JUST CHANGED.



Drive drunk and you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Where are Haiti's leaders?

The anger and frustration brewing just below Haiti's surface burst into the open with violent protests last week, fueled by a flawed election and the tiny margin separating two candidates fighting for a runoff spot.

For many Haitians, an election whose unlikely outcome was questioned by impartial observers is the last straw following months of depressingly slow progress to help victims of last January's earthquake. The elections should be challenged—but not in the streets and not by violence and a breakdown of social order.

The international community has made a commitment to assist Haiti, but the country must have a credible, stable, legitimate government in place before moving on to the next stage of recovery.

This much should be clear: Under the present uncertainty, no one's going to put more money into Haiti. Any premature effort to scuttle the election or delay a second round of balloting without good reason postpones recovery. Delay prolongs the agony of Haiti's one million disaster survivors in bleak refugee camps.

To date, Haiti's feuding presidential candidates have shown little in the way of leadership. They may have good reason to question the results of the Nov. 28 election, but sending supporters into the streets with rocks, bottles and burning tires only promotes fear and disarray.

If they want to help end the violence, the candidates can start by taking part in the three-day appeals process that ends Wednesday while the electoral council reviews the disputed vote. At the same time, they must signal supporters to cease and desist—end the violent protests.

It's too bad President Rene Preval chose to become a partisan by openly throwing the government's support behind Jude Celestin instead of playing the role of statesman. He now has little credibility as an impartial figure and diminished prospects as a mediator.

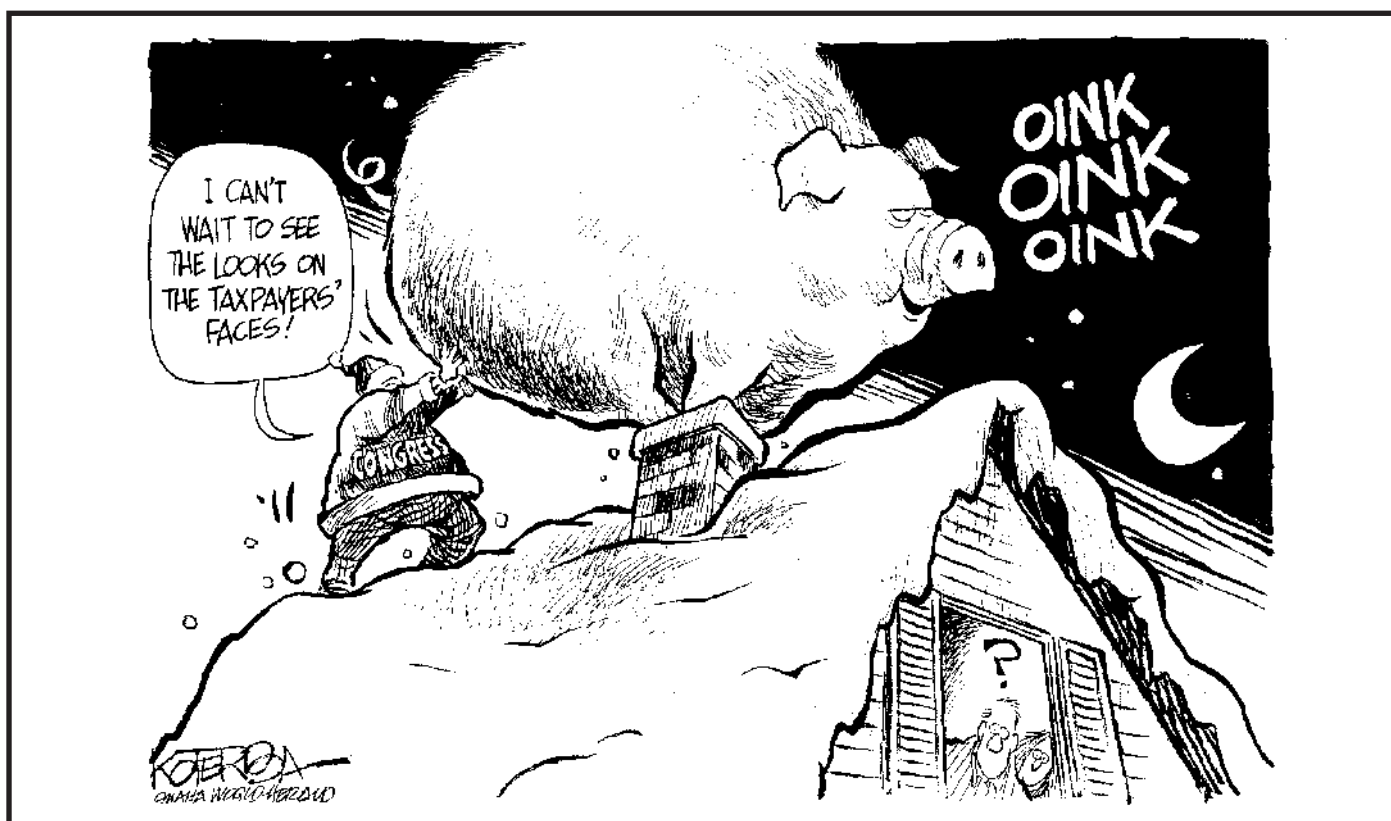
It is particularly incumbent on first-place candidate Mirlande Manigat and the two contenders who trailed her—Mr. Celestin and Michel Martelly—to act responsibly. Ms. Manigat reportedly believes she may have won outright—a stretch, considering the first count gave her only slightly more than 30 percent of the vote. She is holding a strong hand, but trying to avoid a runoff is not the best way to play it.

Only 7,000 or so votes separate Mr. Celestin, who finished second, from Mr. Martelly, who has a groundswell of support and insists he deserves to be in the runoff.

One suggested solution is to allow all three to take part in a second-round election to decide a winner. Considering that there were 19 presidential candidates on the Nov. 28 ballot, this may be the best way out of the crisis. A second way out may involve a true recount with a review of actual ballots and voter lists. Either way is better than trying to decide the issue in the streets.

The eyes of the international community are on Haiti's leaders. This is their country. Do they have the capacity to put the well-being of its 8.5 million people above their own political interests? The alternative is to watch helplessly while international support for Haiti stalls and ultimately dies out. Those are the stakes.

(c) 2010, The Miami Herald.



My letter to Santa Claus

Hello Santa Claus,

My name is Tony and I am 7 years old plus 73. I try to be a good boy and eat all my green vegetables even though they taste yucky. I am hurrying to send my letter to you in time for Christmas. I hope it is not too late to grant some of my wishes. I hope I don't miss you when you fly over Saipan. Will Rudolph be driving your sled again? My daddy says with the high cost of fuel in Saipan, he wishes he had a reindeer in his car. Wow! Wouldn't that be neat?

First on my wish list: Santa, please make the people in the government stop arguing so much. It makes my daddy and his friends afraid that our country will continue to get worse. I hear a lot of people talk about losing hope. They complain that the government has been lying to them especially about something called the Retirement Fund. They say that it is going broke, and the people who are depending upon it to live when they retire will not get their money as promised. Is that true? And why did this awful thing happen?

Second: Santa, please don't bring any trains. I think that when God made us He asked us if we wanted "brains." But many of us thought he said "trains." Being only babies most of us quickly replied: "Yes, we want trains." However as we grew up, we never asked Him to exchange the trains for brains which we need now more than ever. So, Santa, please bring lots and lots of brains for the grownups, especially for our leaders, but no trains! Hopefully the grownups will put away their trains and use the new brains. They need to fix up what my daddy calls and economic disaster.

Also, Santa, please help the local people understand that they are United States citizens and should pay allegiance to the United States. Also please make the United States understand what our people want and to respect our culture. My history teacher tells me that we have been ruled over by many countries. But he says if we work closely with the United States, we will become free and wealthy. Why can't we agree on what we should do to become wealthy and happy again? Was it always like this? What happened?

My daddy tells me that the U.S. sends us lots of dollars each year to help our country. And that we pay very little taxes compared to the United States. If that is true why are we so upset? Is it because we cannot have our way all the time? Gee, I get spanked when I insist on my way.

Santa, I keep asking you every year but you are not helping. Please—please correct the high electric costs at the CUC! The adults who are in charge have been messing up this agency for over 25 years. We pay perhaps the highest utility rate in all the United States and have the junkiest power plant around. Now they are talking about raising the rates even higher. The federal government just gave the CUC over \$4 million again to fix up the generators. Hope—hope they do fix them this time and not waste the money somewhere else.

Another item on my wish list is that as you fly over China, Russia, Japan, and Korea and drop lots and lots of tourist brochures showing the people there how wonderful a place the CNMI is. We want them to come and visit us for their vacations. We really welcome them and will be nice to them when they come. Tell them that they can enjoy clean beaches and blue ocean and great weather. Santa, we need lots of tourists. Oh, and don't forget to print the brochures

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



in their own language. OK?

Santa, we have many nonresident workers living and working here that help us a lot. Many of them have children or a daddy or mommy back home. It can be pretty lonely during the Christmas season with the families separated. Santa, can you stop by their houses and bring them some good cheer and lots of hope for a better future.

We are all Baby Jesus' children and we all believe in you, Santa. But some of us are more fortunate than others. How easy it is to forget that. Please soften our sadness so that we will continue to believe in Baby Jesus and in you. We all need hope. Thanks, Santa. You're keen.

Forgive me for all the requests. But I have noticed that a lot of people are depressed and scared. We are all worried about how we will survive. Many of us have had their work hours cut and pay reduced. As a result a lot of people have left the islands and moved to the States. I once visited there and it is difficult to make a living there. Besides that the people here are friendlier. I love it here and don't want to leave. Don't you think if we all worked better together we would become more prosperous and happy?

Santa, I am not asking for any toys or gifts for me. Please spend all the time you can fixing up what I mentioned above and whatever else you feel needs fixing up. Even though I am only a little boy it makes me sad to see so many adults arguing and acting selfishly. We need to cooperate more than ever before. We must put aside any bad feelings and join hands. This is our country and we are responsible for what we do with it. I know I don't understand a lot because I am so young. But I can feel the anger and the pain in the faces of our people. Please do what you can to help.

Christmas Day is the time to believe in miracles. On that day Jesus was born and since then has guided us as we continue to believe in Him. Even though I am only 7 years old plus 73, I believe that Jesus and His Father will make everything alright.

As you fly over the CNMI, please sprinkle some magic dust which will make us happier. I once saw Tinkerbell fly over a village and sprinkle magic dust which made all the people below smile and happy. I saw that in a movie. Okay?

Because my mommy is now in heaven, my grandmother instead will leave you a cold glass of coconut juice and cookies on the dining room table. Please enjoy them and take the rest back with you.

Don't forget my wishes above. Remember I still believe in you. Help everybody to believe in you and in themselves also. My daddy always tells me that if we can learn to get along together and work hard our country will prosper again. What do you think, Santa? Between you and Baby Jesus, you can make it happen. Thank you, Santa.

Merry Christmas to you, Santa, and to all of us. May God bless us all and keep us healthy and happy!

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

America access allure

By **JAIME VERGARA**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



We started with a healthy dinner of rice and beans, but someone in our neighborhood had leftover *chicaron* (crispy fried pork skin) from the night before that she did not wish to throw away so I took it and added it to my viand. Well, there was also leftover beer in a carafe about to lose all its bubbles, so I took that, too. Then there were the peanuts, with defrosted langoniza (homemade sausages) thrown in for good measure. My neighbors now know that the professor without a job who writes for the paper at Finasisu Terraces on the corner of Haggao Pl and Tun Antonion Apa Rd will not turn away any food offers!

We relished the bonanza too well. The 3 lbs. I slowly drained out of my system lifting dumbbells and walking the pathway were back with a few more laughing lardy friends. Oh, well. We live but once, I say. So, no regrets then, and no guilt to resolve since there is none. In sunny Saipan, whileing the time away, enjoying the afternoon rain in the process, polishes the rust from one's internal armor.

We sold our pick-up to satisfy Wells Fargo's anxieties after missing two payments while off island and before it scurried away to leave our account at the mercies of a collection agency. But we needed a vehicle

to run errands to tie loose ends before we headed for a projected three-month trek in Dong Bei so we headed to our neighborhood car rental.

The Asian lady at the counter looked at me after copying my driver's license and said, "You look like you are only 45." She evidently was a seasoned marketer and sales person. I returned the compliment by coyly asking, "Would you join me for dinner tonight?" She gamely answered, "My husband is in town." She is at least, 50 and a day, although looks can be deceiving on both sides of the counter. Maybe she was just being Oriental for not saying an outright: "No!" But that exchange made my day. When she boldly added, "I have a daughter I would like you to meet," I resolved to look up the old wedding band so I will look married, tamed, tarnished, domesticated, and settled.

I could not imagine where the interest came from. When my Chinese friends are polite, they call me xiao pang zi (small fatso, also used to refer to "cute" toddlers), and when they are being honest, da pang zi (big fatso, as in huge, though I take it to mean more like "chubby"). Not for our looks does the expressed attraction such as the one made at the car rental counter come nigh. It's the Hawaii driver's license. That makes me American, a doorway to a green card. Shucks! For a while there, I thought . . .

We relate this episode because there is giddiness in the air now that November 2011 is only a year away. A segment of the not so firmly documented members of the population are getting clear that waiting for Uncle Sam's charity is not going to change immigration status, but marrying one who has legal papers to indefinitely stay as an immigrant or citizen, can. The frequency of questions on our availability has increased.

Migrating to industrialized nations remains as the only option for those who feel underutilized, or live virtually meaningless existence in their country of origin. Since distributive justice remains the main contradiction in all economies, this is acutely felt in countries where not only is one devoid of prospects of upward mobility by skill or guile, but one is gullible enough to buy into the allure of a more lucrative haven

elsewhere.

Saipan had been a destination of allure during the garment factory days because of the wild, wild west nature of the stories emanating from those who had come earlier, and who also decided to market services that did not exist, making money out of the hapless believers of the foisted silver lining story to the tune of all of a victim's savings plus those of kin and neighbor. I still run into questions each time I go to Dong Bei in China if it is true that paying a minimum of \$6,000 can get one a working permit in our economy. It is a business transaction, not unlike paying out \$400 for a driver's license in Taga land, and an arm and a leg for a social security number.

Around the world, with Germany tightening on the Turks, the French on the Algerians, the anti-Muslim sentiment in all battered economies, not to mention the latent racism against Africans and Romanian gypsies everywhere, and one gets a picture of a world population in turmoil. Then there are the real refugees escaping persecution from their home governments like the tragic dashing on the rough shores of Australia's Christmas Island of possible Iraqi and/or Iranian refugees, and we understand that the issue of immigration continues as a hot button in political integration and cultural assimilation.

The Eaarth's economy had long ago made national boundaries quaint, an instrument of the moneyed and the powerful to filter out who is allowed to enter the O.K. Corral. A talented artist will have to jump numerous hoops to get across a border, but \$150,000 will buy an investor's visa on Saipan, particularly if it is on gambling paraphernalia. The politics of the Brazilian favelas is influenced by who gets to make laws in Washington. MTV in Los Angeles influences the culture of Russian Oblasks as much as it does Urdu villages, Bantu tribes and Inuit settlements. The globe is becoming one and in our defensive frenzy, we build more walls, actual and virtual.

Adding a couple more inches to our girth will not make us less alluring as long as our blue passport carries the eagle seal. Who said life was fair? Driver's licenses, anyone?

Silensiu I Seņgsoņg Natibu

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



Esta nataņa i silensiu na soņgsoņg natibu. I magof yan grasiosu na fasun tautau lokue mafnas ginen matan niha. Hu komprende ayu na fasun niha. Memegaiņa kuestion ke ineppe ni mampos inaminanasa nu i makat kinalam-ten guine.

I didog na pinadese deste dies años na tiempu. Mas didog gi mapos na siņku años. Gi mismu tiempu kulan mohon todū mauleg hombre mampos man-silensiu i man-ma'gasta. Buente ni unu tumuņgu satba-sioņa i mas ke 30 años na diskuidu.

I pinadese mas u didog gi nuebu na sakan. Mas u taduņg i asuntun futunan linahyan 'nai mas tumeug' i taya' salape' gi kahan iya Marianas.

Este na sospechu i mas teug' gi hinasson linahyan na tiempu. Mas ha faņagu didog na sapet para memegaiņa gi tautau-ta.

Ta a'atan lagu Amerika para alibiu. Lau ni siha makat majustifika mas ayudu ginen Congresson Estados Unidos de Amerika fuera ke pagu ma-apruereba na ayudu. Daņkulu na mandatu manae' i nuebu na mayoria (Republican) para u utot gaston federat gi todū asunto ni ti presisu. Mas menos siempre ayudon salape federat para estados siha kontodu territories tat kumu iya Marianas.

I publiku chumoneg este na mandatu gi representanten niha. Esta ti listu na u guaha mas gastu pot rason na i dibin federat gi presente gaige poku mas o'menos \$14 biyon pesos. Ti homlu' i para u ma-apagaye i manatatte un' daņkulu na dibi. Uttimoņa, para man-apsen dibi gi un' obligasion ni finaņagu nu i diskuidon man-ma'gas siha.

Iya Marianas lokue, siempre u fatachoņg ya u pasalista papa' todū gaston gobietno pot para u utot amano i siņa ti man-presisu na gasto siha. Este na eksisiu taya' esta kampon kadukadu'. Debi u guaha sat-ton na konsiderasion gi apas dibi ya u malimitte gi hafa linaņgag nu i kontribusion tax siha.

Yanġin taya' satton na disision gi este na asunto, pues mas u masapet i publiku pot ma-abiba mas i diskuidon gasto ni esta ti siņa ta apase.

Lau para todū este na chinatsaga, man-gaige hit hihot gi haanen Noche Buena 'nai maseha megai hit umaminanasa na biahe, ta baba korasonta gi halom mattiron eskases pot para ta ayuda i mas man-na-mase' na tautau-ta siha. Este na sensian gineftao i mas gai sustansia gi haanimu sa' ti man-nae' hau pot abundansia lau pot ayudu para i mas man-chatsaga.

Gaige este na sensia gi natibu. Hagas patte gi kustumbren tanu. Si

guelu yan guela lumulog este na kustumbre deste antes. Estague' un' haligen natibu ni muna' mesņon gi halom masecha hafa na mattiru. Felis Noche Buena para todus!

■ ■ ■

Gi fina' dinaņa familia gi pueņgen Noche Buena, todus man-gaige para i primet bendision ginen as nana yan tata. Dispues tinatiye este nu i amotsan dispues de Misan Gayu.

Man-anae' maņge' na felisitasion i maņelu siha. Sige teņga konbet-sasion siniseden i seņgsoņg siha 'sino grasian familia siha.

Gaige gi talu i lamasan nana, sentron dinaņa familia gi tutuhon pas-gua. Megai tumuge' naan niha gi lamasan nana. I uttimu biahe antes de bai'n diņgu i hagas guma, gaige naan maņeluhu siha guihe na lamasa.

Hu hahassu tatte tienpoņa ayu na lamasa diariamente yan haanen gupot siha. Tat ti umuriya pot bendision yan sumen maņge' na finatinas nana. Sentron dinaņa deste antes 'nai matutuhon konbetsasion inafam-auleg gi halom todus.

Taigue esta ayu na lamasa 'nai sige mona ya kada unu ha apattague yan nuebu na familiaņa. Lau un' trastes nana ni gumuot' ham diari-amente sakan pot sakan. Kulan misin dididi' lagohu 'nai hu hahassu i hagas dinaņa familia gi oriyen lamasan nana. Buente siha lokue i ma-ņeluhu, piot ayu i man-gaige gi chagu, man-manhahassu nu i finapos mame antes gi oriyen lamasan nana. Felis Noche Buena!

■ ■ ■

Gi este na biahen Feis Noche Buena, muņga sumeha pot guaha di-dog chinatsagamu. Atrebi hau kumonduse halom i Niņo Jesus gi gima' familia. Fannae' agradezimientu ya un' fangagau bendision familiamu para i nuebu na sakan. Felis Noche Buena!

Good intentions frequently hurt animals , and people

By **INGRID E. NEWKIRK**
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Ingrid E. Newkirk is the president and founder of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, 501 Front Street, Norfolk, Va. 23510; www.PETA.org. Information about PETA's funding may be found at www.peta.org/about/numbers.asp.



Around the holidays, well-meaning people may be tempted to contribute to hunger-relief charities that send cows, goats and other farmed animals to poor people in India and other developing nations. But these programs often do more harm than good—to animals, to the environment and to the people they are trying to help.

Animal-donation programs force impoverished people to funnel valuable resources (such as grain and water) through animals, and as a result, the people these programs are designed to help obtain much less nourishment than they would if they just ate the grain directly. It takes up to 16 pounds of grain to produce just 1 pound of animal flesh.

An article about such programs in The Hindu, one of India's largest newspapers, quotes numerous people who had animals thrust upon

them and then desperately struggled to care for both their families and the animals.

"This brute eats more than all us in this house put together," lamented one unwilling recipient of a cow. "And we don't get more than four liters of milk in a day from it."

In addition, the donated animals often overgraze the surrounding vegetation, which causes erosion and leads to drought. The environmental group World Land Trust calls animal-donation programs "environmentally unsound and economically disastrous."

And the countries that these animals are destined for often lack any meaningful animal welfare laws, so donated animals can suffer from horrible neglect, including lack of veterinary care, adequate or clean shelter and sufficient food or water.

On a recent trip to India, I saw black-and-white Holsteins and Holstein crosses roaming the streets and eating plastic bags out of trash cans—plastic bags that will clog their intestines and cause them an agonizing death. American and European cattle breeds fare poorly in India's harsh, dry climate. They suffer greatly under the burning sun and cannot survive on the trash that they find or the sparse, dry, thorny weeds growing by the roadside. This is often all cattle get to eat, especially in drought-stricken areas such as the parts of Maharashtra where I saw these cows. They are also less capable of pulling heavy carts than are native Brahmins and Brahman crosses.

If people want to provide meaningful aid to impoverished countries, they would do better to support programs such as Animal Ra-

hat, which provides relief to working animals and their families. Based in Indian villages where animals haul heavy loads of bricks and sugar cane for long periods of time, often in sweltering heat, Animal Rahat has greatly improved the lives of these animals by giving rest to the lame—something that the owners, who often live hand to mouth, could never afford to do. Animal Rahat also provides free medical care to lame, sick and injured animals. The owners of these animals are often too poor to afford even the basic nutrients that the animals need in order to stay strong and healthy—let alone pay for veterinary services.

Animal Rahat has installed water tanks around towns and designed special screens that can be attached to carts and used as shelter against the sun or as a blanket in winter. Impoverished people receive a subsidy for allowing sick, injured and elderly animals to retire. If they can't care for their animals at home, the animals can live out their days at the Animal Rahat retirement center.






With the holidays upon us, kind folks are opening their checkbooks in the spirit of helping others. Please, let's not forget about those struggling working animals who would benefit from a day's rest, a poultice for a wound or a yoke that doesn't cut into their shoulders.

People who would like to help the hungry might consider supporting organizations such as Food First, The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation and The Hunger Project, which do not send animals into a life of misery but do work to change the policies that allow hunger and poverty to thrive.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼75
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼74
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼75
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼75
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼77

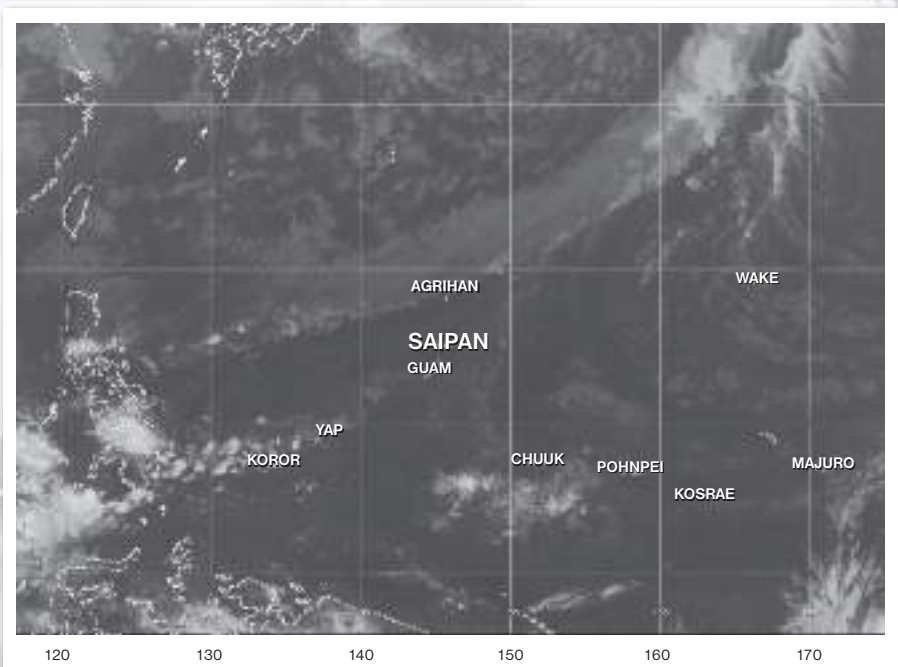
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲73 ▼67
Beijing	Sunny	▲46 ▼23
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲71 ▼52
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲78 ▼70
London	Ice	▲38 ▼29
Los Angeles	Rain	▲57 ▼53
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼73
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▼54
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲74 ▼58
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲35 ▼25
Osaka	Showers	▲57 ▼44
Paris	Showers	▲40 ▼35
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼42
Rome	Showers	▲59 ▼46
Salem	Showers	▲46 ▼39
San Francisco	Rain	▲55 ▼50
Seoul	Cloudy	▲42 ▼29
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼44
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲35 ▼26

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:53 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
11:06 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
4:39 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	
8:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from east of Minami Torishima at 25N159E to north-east of the CNMI at 21N151E, then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 15N. Cloudiness, scattered showers and patchy rain are present along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. A small circulation is centered northeast of Wake Island at 22N179E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are evident east of a line from 20N178E to 23N178E. Converging surface winds are causing widely scattered showers over Koror and Yap within 70 miles of a line from 7N130E to 10N140E. Scattered show-ers are also present east of Majuro within 40 miles of a line from 5N174E to 5N177E to 9N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:38 AM	5:55 PM
Tuesday	6:38 AM	5:56 PM
Wednesday	6:39 AM	5:56 PM
Thursday	6:39 AM	5:57 PM
Friday	6:40 AM	5:57 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:53 PM	5:17 AM
Tuesday	5:51 PM	6:14 AM
Wednesday	6:52 PM	7:11 AM
Thursday	7:53 PM	8:05 AM
Friday	8:52 PM	8:56 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, grant-ing of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togeth-ers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza-tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contrib-utors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

- Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
 - *11 on any PTI cellular phone
 - Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Bank of America stops handling WikiLeaks payments

By **TOM MURPHY**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Bank of America Corp. has joined several other financial institutions in refusing to handle payments for WikiLeaks, the latest blow to the secret-releasing organization's efforts to continue operating under pressure from governments and the corporate world.

The Charlotte, N.C.-based bank's move adds to similar

actions by Mastercard Inc. and PayPal Inc. Though previous moves have prompted reprisals by hackers, Bank of America's site is as well-protected as they come, security experts say.

Its site was problem-free through midafternoon Saturday.

"This decision is based upon our reasonable belief that WikiLeaks may be engaged in activities that are, among other things, inconsistent with our internal policies for processing

payments," the bank said in a statement Saturday. The move was first reported by The Charlotte Observer.

Earlier this month, Internet "hacktivists" operating under the label "Operation Payback" claimed responsibility in a Twitter message for causing technical problems at the MasterCard website after it ended its relationship with WikiLeaks. PayPal saw its website subject to an attack

that slowed it down but did not significantly affect payments.

Bank of America's website offers access to customer accounts through its home page, but it could be a tough nut for hackers to crack, security experts say.

No financial institution can "fully keep the bad guys out," said Rich Mogull, an analyst and CEO with the security research firm Securosis. But he added that customers shouldn't worry about WikiLeaks supporters plundering their accounts, because the bank has plenty of practice in warding off hackers. Also, previous attacks in

support of WikiLeaks haven't targeted customer accounts.

"Bank of America, I can guarantee you, is one of the top targets in the world," Mogull said.

He also said the company probably confronts denial-of-service attacks regularly, too, and likely has strong defenses. "I'm not going to guarantee it's enough," he said. "It always depends on how big the attack is."

In such attacks, computers are harnessed—sometimes surreptitiously—to jam target sites with mountains of requests for data, knocking them out of commission.

Reached by phone, Bank of America spokesman Scott Sil-

vestri declined further comment to The Associated Press on Saturday.

WikiLeaks says it's preparing a release of information on banks, which could include documents it says it has on Bank of America.

WikiLeaks responded to Bank of America's announcement with a Twitter message urging supporters to stop doing business with the bank.

"We ask that all people who love freedom close out their accounts at Bank of America," WikiLeaks said in its posting Saturday. It also called on businesses to switch funds from the bank.

Heavy snow hits air travel, roads across Europe

LONDON (AP)—Blizzards and freezing temperatures shut down runways, train tracks and highways across Europe on Saturday, disrupting flights and leaving shivering drivers stranded on roadsides.

Airports in Britain, Germany, France, Spain, the Netherlands and Denmark reported cancellations or delays to flights.

London's Gatwick airport reopened late afternoon after 150 employees using dozens of plows worked to clear the runway of 10 centimeters (four inches) of snow, though officials warned flights would be limited and cancellations likely.

Heathrow Airport will remain shut until Sunday after snow and ice forced the closure of runways, according to a statement on its website.

"There are likely to be significant knock-on delays tomorrow (Sunday) and you should contact your airline before traveling to the airport," the statement said.

Conditions on British roads were treacherous, Automobile Association official Darron Burness said. "One of the biggest problems is that large amounts of snow are falling very quickly on to frozen surfaces, making driving hazardous," he said.

Hundreds of motorists were left stranded on a major road in

northwestern England following a deluge, prompting police patrols to offer food and water to drivers.

Jeremy Clarkson, host of BBC motoring program "Top Gear" said he was among drivers forced to abandon their vehicles close to Oxford, west of London. "It was very bad out there," he said.

In Italy, the Autostrada of the Sun—the country's main north-south highway—was jammed with hundreds of vehicles, whose chilly occupants slept in their cars, vans or trucks. Though snow had mainly cleared or melted early Saturday, the highway was still closed in one direction, with traffic backed up for nearly 25 miles (40 kilometers).

The snowfall also forced high-speed trains to bypass Florence's central Santa Maria Novella station, stopping in suburban stations instead.

Paris was sprinkled with a light coat of snow overnight, as many people prepared to set off on their Christmas vacations. More snow was predicted Saturday, leading civil aviation authorities to cancel 15 percent of flights at Charles de Gaulle airport between 4 p.m. (1500 GMT, 10 a.m. EST) and 11 p.m. (2200 GMT, 5 p.m. EST).

Many flights were also can-

celed in northeastern France, where snow already blanketed the ground, and services were also canceled at the airports in the cities of Nantes and Rennes.

Significant numbers of domestic and European flights were canceled at Germany's Frankfurt airport as it dealt with the disruption. Germany's railway operator Deutsche Bahn said it was pressing into service all the trains it could—though some journeys were subject to delays. "Everything that can roll is rolling," spokesman Holger Auferkamp told the German news agency DAPD.

The icy weather also swept over large parts of Scandinavia, causing problems particularly in Denmark, where dozens of flights were canceled at the airport in Copenhagen. According to Danish news agency Ritzau, train traffic between Denmark and southern Sweden was also disrupted because of track problems, partly due to the snow, forcing passengers to instead take buses between the two countries.

In Sweden, where media reports suggest the country is experiencing the coldest winter weather this early on in the season since the mid-1800's, several road accidents were reported, with more than 20 in the Stockholm area alone.



In this April 21, 2008 file photo, a sign for a Bank of America branch is shown in Charlotte, N.C. Bank of America says it will no longer process transactions for the website WikiLeaks, following similar actions by several other financial institutions.

No joy for many Madoff victims, despite settlement

NEW YORK (AP)—The news that some of Bernard Madoff's victims could be getting half their money back was of little comfort to Richard and Cynthia Friedman, and others who saw their life savings erased in the mammoth fraud.

Just days earlier, the Long Island couple learned that Richard's 85-year-old mother was one of hundreds of longtime Madoff clients sued in recent weeks for millions by the trustee handling the case.

"He is going after innocent people," Cynthia Friedman said of the trustee, Irving Picard.

Picard's announcement Friday of a jaw-dropping \$7.2 billion settlement from one of Madoff's richest investors left the Friedmans and other middle-income Madoff victims with mixed feelings.

Some fear that hedge funds will get the bulk of the cash being recovered, while others—especially those with modest incomes—worry that Picard will continue to sue them for what's left of their scarce savings.

The recent claim against Shirley Friedman, 85, offered a blunt, familiar argument: Yes, the family's investment had been wiped out. But over the many years Friedman had been a Madoff client, her annual withdrawals from his funds had exceeded the amount of her late husband's original investment.

As a result, according to Picard, she owed \$3.6 million.

To the family, targeting an old lady with Alzheimer's disease, and others like her, seemed cruel.

"Many of these people are old, sick, and have been impoverished," said Richard Friedman. "Some of them are now terrified. They don't have money to pay an attorney."

After two years of trying to claw back false returns paid to big banks, hedge funds and money managers who never questioned the unbelievable profits they were earning from Madoff, Picard sent a wave of letters this month initiating legal action against a large group of smaller investors, including

some who were wiped out in the scandal. At a news conference Friday, Picard expressed sympathy for the victims he is suing and acknowledged that a large number of them were unaware of the Ponzi scheme. He said people with poor finances could enroll in a hardship program that might exempt them from having to make payments.

On Friday, the widow of Florida philanthropist Jeffry Picower agreed to return \$7.2 billion her husband had received in profit over the decades from Madoff's fund.

Combined with other settlements and seizures, that brought the total amount of money available for victims to more than \$10 billion, or about half of the money invested with the fraud king.

It isn't clear, however, just how many Madoff victims will ever see a dime of it.

Picard has so far authorized payments to fewer than 2,400 of the nearly 16,500 Madoff customers who filed a claim for a share of recovered money.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Dubai ruler's firm reaches deal on \$2.5B in loans

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—An investment firm owned by Dubai's ruler says it has reached a deal with leading creditors to extend the terms on \$2.5 billion worth of debt. Dubai International Capital said Friday the deal will give it six more years to pay back \$2 billion of the debt and four more years for another \$500 million. The deal was reached "in principle" with lenders representing the bulk of the debt and must still be approved by smaller creditors. DIC is also naming its 41-year-old chief investment officer David Smoot as CEO, replacing Anand Krishnan.

US: Company recalls meat sent to NM businesses

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—The U.S. Department of Agriculture says a company is recalling thousands of pounds of meat sent to businesses in New Mexico. The agency's Food

Safety and Inspection Service said Friday that Dallas-based Winn Meat Co. was recalling 25,600 pounds of ground beef products that were improperly labeled and potentially adulterated. The agency says in a statement that the meat posed a low health risk and it has received no reports of illness linked to it.

Qatar Airways sticks by Boeing 787 despite delays

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—Qatar Airways' CEO voiced confidence in Boeing Co. over its delayed 787 program Saturday, but warned the fast-growing carrier may scrap orders for the planes if development problems drag on. Chief Executive Akbar al-Baker noted, however, that there are no current plans to amend Qatar Airways' multibillion-dollar orders for 30 787s and options for 30 more. "If there is another slip, yes we will have no alternative" but to consider canceling orders, he said. "But as of today, I still have confidence in Boeing."

Nation

Senate votes to end ban on openly gay troops

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a historic vote for gay rights, the Senate agreed on Saturday to do away with the military's 17-year ban on openly gay troops and sent President Barack Obama legislation to overturn the Clinton-era policy known as "don't ask, don't tell."

Obama was expected to sign the bill into law next week, although changes to military policy probably wouldn't take effect for at least several months. Under the bill, the president and his top military advisers must first

certify that lifting the ban won't hurt troops' ability to fight. After that, the military would undergo a 60-day wait period.

Repeal would mean that, for the first time in American history, gays would be openly accepted by the armed forces and could acknowledge their sexual orientation without fear of being kicked out.

More than 13,500 service members have been dismissed under the 1993 law.

"It is time to close this chapter in our history," Obama said

in a statement. "It is time to recognize that sacrifice, valor and integrity are no more defined by sexual orientation than they are by race or gender, religion or creed."

The Senate voted 65-31 to pass the bill, with eight Republicans siding with 55 Democrats and two independents in favor of repeal. The House had passed an identical version of the bill, 250-175, earlier this week.

Supporters hailed the Senate vote as a major step forward for gay rights. Many activists

hope that integrating openly gay troops within the military will lead to greater acceptance in the civilian world, as it did for blacks after President Harry Truman's 1948 executive order on equal treatment regardless of race in the military.

"The military remains the great equalizer," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass. "Just like we did after President Truman desegregated the military, we'll someday look back and wonder what took Washington so long to fix it."

Sen. John McCain, Obama's GOP rival in 2008, led the opposition. Speaking on the Senate floor minutes before a crucial test

vote, the Arizona Republican acknowledged he couldn't stop the bill. He blamed elite liberals with no military experience for pushing their social agenda on troops during wartime.

"They will do what is asked of them," McCain said of service members. "But don't think there won't be a great cost."

How the military will implement a change in policy, and how long that will take remains unclear. Senior Pentagon officials have said the new policy could be rolled out incrementally, service by service or unit by unit.

In a statement issued immediately after the vote, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said

he will begin the certification process immediately. But any change in policy won't come until after careful consultation with military service chiefs and combatant commanders, he said. "Successful implementation will depend upon strong leadership, a clear message and proactive education throughout the force," he said.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he welcomes the change.

"No longer will able men and women who want to serve and sacrifice for their country have to sacrifice their integrity to do so," he said. "We will be a better military as a result."



AP

Sen. Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., left, speaks as he stands with Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine., and Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., during a news conference about the passage of the Don't Ask Don't Tell bill during a rare Saturday session on Capitol Hill in Washington Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010.

Republicans block youth immigration bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republicans on Saturday doomed an effort that would have given hundreds of thousands of young illegal immigrants a path to legal status if they enrolled in college or joined the military.

Sponsors of the Dream Act fell five votes short of the 60 they needed to break through largely GOP opposition and win its enactment before Republicans take over the House and narrow Democrats' majority in the Senate next month.

President Barack Obama called the vote "incredibly disappointing."

"A minority of senators prevented the Senate from doing what most Americans understand is best for the country," Obama said. "There was simply no reason not to pass this important legislation."

Dozens of immigrants wearing graduation mortarboards watched from the Senate's visitors gallery, disappointment on their faces, as the 55-41 vote was announced.

"This is a dark day in America," said Jorge-Mario Cabrera, a

spokesman for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles. "The Senate has ... thrown under the bus the lives and hard work of thousands and thousands of students who love this country like their own home, and, in fact, they have no other home."

Hispanic activists and immigrant advocates had looked to the bill as a down payment on what they had hoped would be broader action by Obama and the Democratic-controlled Congress to give the nation's 10 million to 12 million illegal immigrants a chance at legal status.

It targeted the most sympathetic of the millions of illegal immigrants—those brought to the United States as children, who in many cases consider themselves American, speak English and have no ties to or family living in their native countries.

"They stand in the classrooms and pledge allegiance to our flag," said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., the bill's chief sponsor. "This is the only country they have ever known. All they're asking for is a

chance to serve this nation."

Critics called the bill a backdoor grant of amnesty that would encourage more foreigners to sneak into the United States in hopes of being legalized eventually.

"Treating the symptoms of the problem might make us feel better ... but it can allow the underlying problem to metastasize," said Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz. "Unfortunately, that's what's happening at our border."

The legislation would have provided a route to legal status for an estimated 1 million to 2 million illegal immigrants who were brought to the U.S. before age 16, have been here for five years, graduated from high school or gained an equivalency degree and who joined the military or attend college.

Democrats' determination to vote on the bill before year's end reflected the party's efforts to satisfy Hispanic groups whose backing has been critical in recent elections and will be again in 2012. They said they'll try again in the next Congress, despite the increased GOP presence.

Gays celebrate repeal of 'don't ask, don't tell'

NEW YORK (AP)—Word that the world's largest military power will allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military brought strong and swift reaction Saturday, with supporters declaring a civil rights milestone and detractors insisting it would weaken and divide the armed forces.

In New York, home to one of the nation's largest gay communities and a gay pride parade whose grand marshal this year was an openly gay, discharged serviceman, 28-year-old Cassandra Melnikow glanced at a news ticker in Times Square announcing the repeal and said: "Excellent! It's about time."

"I don't see what difference (sexual orientation) makes in the fighting military," said Melnikow, a public health researcher. "What's the big deal?"

President Barack Obama had made repealing "don't ask, don't tell" a campaign promise in 2008, and rounding up a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate was a historic victory

for him. By the time President Bill Clinton proposed allowing gays to serve in the military in 1993, they had been explicitly barred from military service since World War I.

Foes of lifting the ban argued that the military shouldn't be used to expand the rights of gays and that allowing them to serve openly would hurt troop morale and a unit's ability to fight—the same arguments used against women and blacks.

In the end, Congress agreed to let gays serve only if their sexual orientation remained secret.

Repeal means that for the first time in U.S. history, gays will be openly accepted by the military and can acknowledge their sexual orientation without fear of being discharged. More than 13,500 service members have been dismissed under the 1993 law.

The change wouldn't take immediate effect, however. The legislation says the president and his top military advisers must certify that lifting the ban won't

hurt troops' fighting ability. After that, there's a 60-day waiting period for the military.

Conservative organizations said the vote didn't reflect the sentiments of rank-and-file military members and should not have taken place so close to the end of the current session of Congress.

"The issue that really disturbs me more than anything else is that legislation that's controversial tends to be done in lame-duck sessions when a number of the elected representatives are no longer accountable to the people," said Len Deo, president of the New Jersey Family Policy Council.

The Massachusetts Family Institute said Republican senators who voted for the measure broke a promise they had made not to vote on the repeal until the federal budget was resolved.

"In doing so, they not only have put special interests above fiscal interests but also have put our troops at risk during wartime," said Kris Mineau, the group's president.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police circle Colo. home where pregnant woman shot

DENVER (AP)—Police say authorities have surrounded a suburban Denver house where a man shot his pregnant wife, and some residents in the neighborhood have evacuated. Castle Rock officials say in a statement that the woman is in stable condition at a local hospital and that no one else is in the home. Castle Rock spokeswoman Kim Mutchler says a previous report that the woman was shot near her face is inaccurate but would not specify where she was wounded. The woman fled the home with a child after the shooting. No names have been released but authorities say the man is 40 and the woman is 33.

Sky-diving plane crashes in La.; 3 killed, 2 hurt

CROWLEY, La. (AP)—A small plane carrying a group of sky divers crashed Saturday in south-central Louisiana, killing three people and injuring two others on board. A pilot and four jumpers were aboard the single-engine plane

when it crashed shortly after take off, Acadia Parish sheriff's deputy Maxine Trahan said. Witnesses reported seeing the Cessna 182 take off about 2:30 p.m. from LeGros Memorial Airport in Acadia Parish. The plane was about 200 feet in the air when it lost power and the pilot attempted to make it back to the runway, FAA spokesman Lynn Lunsford said.

Typewriter fans gather in Philly for 'Type-In'

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Fans of a bygone age have been taking time in Philadelphia to celebrate the nondigital, admittedly noisy era of the manual typewriter. About a dozen people showed up Saturday with machines in tow to "Type-In" at a pub in the city's historic 30th Street Station. Machines of varying sizes and colors shared tables with coffee and beer as participants compared models and talked about bringing the devices into a century not their own. Technicians were also on hand to offer advice for ailing machines.

Asia

Security Council to meet as SKorea set on exercise

YEONPYEONG ISLAND, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's military waited for better weather to hold live-fire drills that the North warned would cause it to retaliate, but the high tensions prompted the U.N. Security Council to schedule an emergency meeting at Russia's request.

The one-day firing drills are planned by Tuesday on the same front-line island the North shelled last month as the South's military conducted similar

drills. The shelling killed four people on Yeonpyeong Island near the tense sea border.

The military's position to hold the drills remains unchanged, a Defense Ministry official said, indicating the drills could take place on either Monday or Tuesday due to bad weather on Sunday. He asked not to be identified, citing the issue's sensitivity.

The North's Foreign Ministry said Saturday that South Korea would face an unspecified

"catastrophe" if the drills take place, in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency. The North also said it would strike harder than before.

South Korea says the drills are routine, defensive in nature and should not be considered threatening. The U.S. supports that and says any country has a right to train for self-defense, but Russia and China, fellow permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, have ex-

pressed concern.

Russia's Foreign Ministry urged South Korea to cancel to avoid escalating tensions.

The Security Council scheduled emergency closed-door consultations on North Korea for 11 a.m. (1600 GMT) Sunday at Russia's request, said Mark Komblau, spokesman for the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. The United States holds

the council's rotating presidency this month.

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said the Russian government believes the Security Council must send "a restraining signal" to North Korea and help launch diplomatic actions to resolve all disputes between North Korea and South Korea.

China, the North's key ally,

said it is firmly against any acts that could worsen already-high tensions on the Korean peninsula. "In regard to what could lead to worsening the situation or any escalation of acts of sabotage of regional peace and stability, China is firmly and unambiguously opposed," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said in a statement Saturday.

Pakistan spy agency denies it exposed CIA chief

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's main spy agency denied it had unmasked the CIA's station chief in Islamabad, and warned such allegations could damage its already fragile counterterrorism alliance with the United States.

The CIA pulled its top spy out of Pakistan on Thursday amid death threats after his name emerged publicly a few weeks ago from a Pakistani man threatening to sue the CIA over the alleged deaths of his son and brother in a 2009 U.S. missile strike. The attorney involved with the complaint said he learned the name from Pakistani journalists.

But the station chief's outing has spurred questions whether Pakistan's spy service might have leaked the information. Lawsuits filed last month in New York City in connection with the 2008 terror attacks in Mumbai, India, also may have raised ten-

sions by naming Pakistan's intelligence chief as a defendant.

The recall of the top American intelligence official in Pakistan comes at a delicate time.

The White House over the past week released the results of a review of progress in the war in neighboring Afghanistan. The report included the conclusion that the existence of safe havens for militants on Pakistan's side of the border remained a major obstacle to defeating the Taliban and al-Qaida.

Pakistan's assistance in clearing those militant hideouts—and providing intelligence to help the U.S. pinpoint targets for its covert, drone-fired missile strikes—is considered crucial. A breakdown in the relationship with Pakistani intelligence could be a major blow to the U.S.

An official with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency, its lead spy agency and a power-

ful force in the country, said Saturday any suggestions it outed the station chief were "a slur."

In particular, he denied the notion that the U.S. lawsuits had spurred the ISI to retaliate.

Such "unfounded stories can create differences between the two organizations," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not cleared to brief the media.

The U.S. lawsuits were filed last month, and the plaintiffs include relatives of victims in the Mumbai attacks, which left 166 people and nine attackers dead. The assault has been blamed on the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is listed as a defendant in the suit. But they also list the ISI and its chief, Gen. Ahmed Shuja Pasha. The suits repeat longstanding allegations that the ISI "has long nurtured and used international terrorist groups," including Lashkar.



South Korean marines unload their supplies from a ferry at a port on Yeonpyeong Island, South Korea, Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010.

US Afghan troop surge buys time but not victory

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—President Barack Obama's decision to send 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan has bought time to tackle the core issues behind the conflict—ineffectual government, corruption and insurgent sanctuaries in Pakistan—but has achieved no breakthrough in the nearly 10-year war.

Months of intense fighting have pushed the Taliban out of longtime strongholds in parts of Kandahar and Helmand provinces—although the militants are by no means defeated.

Attacks in the capital of Kabul have become rare, but insurgents operate in nearby provinces.

Yet by its own estimate, offered in a five-page year-end review released Thursday, the Obama administration acknowledged that while Taliban momentum has been stopped in some areas and reversed in others, "gains remain fragile and reversible." At least 480 American troops have been killed this year—the bloodiest since the war began in October 2001—compared to 317 in 2009 and 155 in 2008.

New U.S. intelligence reports

paint a bleak picture. The reports, known as National Intelligence Estimates, cite progress in areas where there are enough U.S. or NATO troops to maintain security, but say much of the country remains under Taliban control or vulnerable to Taliban infiltration, according to an official who read the executive summary.

That's a view shared by a number of independent analysts and organizations that work in Afghanistan.

Road travel from Kabul to other major cities is risky for Afghans and out of the question for Westerners due to the threat of kidnapping at Taliban checkpoints.

The international Red Cross said last week that violence is on the rise across the country. The Brussels-based International Crisis Group, an international think tank, said there is "little proof that the operations have disrupted the insurgency's momentum or increased stability."

"The (American) story line does not match facts on the ground," the group said in a Nov. 28 report.

"NATO forces are not win-

ning in Afghanistan. Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan cannot succeed without two essential elements: a legitimate, functioning government; and measures that deprive insurgents of external sanctuary and support," analyst Matt Waldman wrote in a review for London's Royal United Services Institute, a military think tank.

In announcing his troop surge on Dec. 2, 2009, Obama said the move was intended "to seize the initiative" from the Taliban "while building the Afghan capacity that can allow for a responsible transition of our forces out of Afghanistan."

Clearly, the U.S. and its allies have achieved some success in taking the initiative, especially in the Taliban heartland of the south.

The U.S.-led coalition said 2,469 insurgents were captured and 952 were killed during the 90-day period ending Dec. 2. NATO maintains that a campaign to capture or kill key mid-level insurgent commanders has weakened the rebel command structure and may in time encourage lower-ranking fighters to leave the battlefield.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suicide bombers kill 5 in northern Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan officials say four gunmen, including a suicide bomber, attacked an army recruitment center in northern Afghanistan, killing at least five members of the security forces members. Gunshots could still be heard coming from the site hours later early Sunday. The attackers stormed the recruitment center in Kunduz province at daybreak and at least one of them was able to detonate his explosives, said Hamdullah Danishi, the province's deputy governor. The blast shattered windows in nearby homes.

15 missing, 12 injured in Philippines hotel fire

TUGUEGARAO, Philippines (AP)—A fire tore through a budget hotel as guests slept early Sunday in the northern Philippines, injuring 12 nursing students and leaving 15 missing, police said.

The fire started on the ground floor of the five-story Bed and Breakfast Pension House in Cagayan province's capital of Tuguegarao city and raged for more than four hours before being put out by fire, provincial police chief Mao Aplasca said. At least 12 nursing students were taken to hospitals with minor burns. Firefighters were able to enter the gutted building in midmorning to search for the 15 reported missing by their friends and relatives, he said.

Boat capsizes in Bangladesh river, at least 37 die

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A boat packed with passengers capsized on a river in north-eastern Bangladesh, and rescuers said Sunday at least 37 people died and 18 more were missing. The boat carrying about 80 people collided with a sand-laden cargo vessel in the darkness late Saturday on the River Surma, local government officials Abul Hashem and Matiur Rahman said. They spoke to The Associated

Press by telephone from the scene of the accident in Sunamganj district, about 110 miles (175 kilometers) north-east of the capital, Dhaka.

China fishing boat capsizes in scuffle; 1 dead

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean officials questioned three Chinese fishermen rescued from a boat that capsized during a maritime scuffle with the coast guard in which one fisherman died and another was missing, an official said Sunday. About 50 Chinese fishing boats were illegally fishing in western South Korean waters off Gunsan city, about 170 miles (270 kilometers) south of Seoul, on Saturday when a South Korean coast guard ship approached them to try to curb illegal fishing activities, according to the coast guard. The boat that capsized had intentionally hit the larger coast guard ship, apparently to help its compatriots sail back to Chinese waters, coast guard official Roh Sang-gue said.

World

Palestinians still hope for state by summer

JERUSALEM (AP)—Palestinian plans to establish a state by summer in agreement with Israel remain on track and they do not intend to seek alternatives such as unilateral recognition from the international community, a top Palestinian official said in a special interview with Israeli TV aired Saturday.

Later Saturday, an Israeli airstrike killed five Gaza militants in the deadliest attack against the coastal strip in months. The Israeli military said the men were about to launch a rocket attack against southern Israeli communities when they were struck. Palestinian officials confirmed the five dead in central Gaza were militants but had no further details.

The militant Hamas controls the Gaza Strip, while the more moderate Palestinian Authority governs the West Bank.

The rare flare up in violence comes as Israel and the Palestinian Authority are at an impasse in peace talks over a Palestinian demand that Israel freeze Jewish settlements in areas Palestinians want for a future state.

Given the stalemate, some Palestinian officials have been trying to rally international recognition for an independent state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem even without a deal with Israel.

However, Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad said in the interview this is not his goal.

“What we are looking for now is a state of Palestine. We are not looking for yet another declaration of



A Palestinian girl sits atop her father's shoulders as a Palestinian flag waves in the background during a march marking the 43rd anniversary of the leftist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010. AP

statehood. We are not looking for a unilateral declaration of statehood,” he said in an interview with Israel's Channel 2 TV. “I really do not have a Plan B. ... I am not going to offer alternatives.”

The interview was the first Fayyad has granted to an Israeli TV station since becoming prime minister in 2007. His comments suggested there

are differences of opinion in the Palestinian leadership about peacemaking strategy.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and several of his top aides have said repeatedly they are pursuing alternatives, arguing that there is little hope at this stage that meaningful negotiations on the terms of statehood can resume.

Iranian president announces start to subsidy cuts

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's president on Saturday announced the start of a plan to slash energy and food subsidies, part of government efforts to boost the country's ailing economy.

In an interview with state television, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the deep cuts to the subsidies “will start beginning Sunday,” and vowed to fully cut all subsidies by the end of his term in 2013.

The cuts come as Iran remains deadlocked with the U.S. and its allies over Tehran's disputed nuclear program. The U.N. Security Council slapped a fourth round of sanctions on Iran last summer over its refusal to halt uranium enrichment, and there are signs those penalties are taking a toll on the nation's economy.

Still, Iran had planned to slash subsidies before the latest sanctions took effect, and Ahmadinejad and his allies have long insisted the country's oil-based economy could no longer afford the largesse. Tehran says it is paying

some \$100 billion in subsidies annually, although experts believe the amount is about \$30 billion.

After the president announced the cuts, long lines of cars were seen at several gas stations in Tehran as Iranians rushed to fill their tanks at subsidized prices before the new ones took effect at midnight.

Under the new rationing system, each person with a fuel card has to pay 4,000 rials (40 cents) per liter of gas, up from 10 cents per liter. Fuel beyond a person's quota is now sold at 70 cents per liter, up from 40 cents.

When the government first imposed the rationing system in 2007, riots broke out in Tehran and angry protesters set dozens of gas stations on fire. On Saturday, thousands of police in riot gear were stationed at gas stations to protect them from possible rioters, while police were also seen patrolling streets and guarding banks. There were no reports of violence.

Ahmadinejad also said his govern-

ment was paying \$4 billion in bread subsidies. That, too, is now being gradually phased out.

Economists say the unpopular plan to slash subsidies could stoke inflation unofficially estimated to be over 20 percent. The cuts also are widely seen as placing added burdens on Iranians, whose country is already weighed down by sanctions.

The government says cutting subsidies, known as the Subsidy Smart Plan, will return part of the money obtained from increased prices to the people through cash payments. It has already paid nearly \$15 billion into bank accounts of some 20 million families in the country as compensation ahead of the cuts.

Every family member received a sum of 810,000 rials (\$80) for two months, and Ahmadinejad suggested that they could withdraw the money as of Sunday. Still, he urged people not to rush to the banks to withdraw the funds.

Cuban-Americans haul goods home on holiday visits

HAVANA (AP)—In Cuba, Santa's sleigh is a Boeing 737.

Thousands of Cuban-Americans are heading to Havana this holiday season carrying everything from electronics and medicine to clothing and toiletries to help relatives back home supplement monthly salaries averaging about \$20.

Not only are Cuban-Americans visiting the island in far greater numbers since President Barack Obama lifted travel restrictions last year, they are bringing more stuff. One carrier says the average bag weight per passenger is up 55 percent—and many Miami-Havana flights are shadowed by a separate cargo plane just to haul the load.

“They bring you things for the family,” said Paulo Roman Garcia, a 45-year-old Havana native who makes \$9.50 a month selling fruit at a market in the city's historic quarter.

Roman Garcia was looking forward to a visit in the New Year from his older brother, who lives in New Jersey and will be coming down with stocking-stuffers such as clothing and treats, as well as big-ticket items including a stereo.

“My son has asthma, and he's bringing inhalers for his asthma,” Roman Garcia said. “Medicines are very important. Some don't exist here, or they're hard to find.”



In this Dec. 16, 2010 photo, Wilfredo Martinez Jr. of Miami writes the word “Fragile” on a television set he is taking on his flight to Cuba at Miami International Airport in Miami. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Gbagbo orders UN peacekeepers to leave Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—The man who refuses to step down from the presidency ordered thousands of U.N. peacekeepers to leave Ivory Coast immediately on Saturday, calling the global body that has endorsed his po-

litical rival an “agent of destabilization.” The move was the latest act of political defiance by Laurent Gbagbo, who has been in power since 2000 and maintains he is the rightful winner of last month's runoff vote in the West African nation despite growing international pressure on him to concede defeat. The statement read on state television came just two

days after as many as 30 people were killed in street violence in Ivory Coast. Earlier Saturday, masked gunmen opened fire on the U.N. base; no one from the U.N. was harmed in the attack.

US, Venezuela at odds on ambassador, Chavez powers
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Ten-

sions between the U.S. and Venezuela flared over Washington's nominee for ambassador Saturday as President Hugo Chavez warned that the diplomat would be detained and put on the next flight home if he tries to set foot in the country. For months Chavez has been warning that President Barack Obama's nominee, Larry Palmer,

would not be welcome under any circumstances due to critical remarks he made about the Venezuelan government. During his Senate confirmation process, Palmer suggested that morale is low in Venezuela's military, and also expressed concern about Colombian rebels finding refuge in Venezuela.

Health & fitness

London, tuberculosis capital of Western Europe

LONDON (AP)—The number of people infected with tuberculosis has jumped by 50 percent in London in the last decade, making it the tuberculosis capital of Western Europe, a new report says.

Unlike other countries in the region where tuberculosis is dropping, the disease is on the rise in Britain, particularly in London. In 1999, there were about 2,309 cases.

By 2009, London had 3,450 cases of Britain's more than 9,000 cases, according to an article published Friday in the medical journal, *Lancet*. Since only about 70 percent of active tuberculosis cases are picked up, those numbers are an underestimate.

"We are concerned to see cases of TB at their highest levels since the 1970s," said Dr. Ibrahim Abubakar, head of tuberculosis surveillance at Britain's Health Protection Agency, in a

statement. He was not connected to the commentary. "The key to reducing levels of TB is early diagnosis and appropriate treatment," Abubakar said.

While tuberculosis remains rare in the U.K.—about 15 people per 100,000 people are infected—that is still higher than elsewhere in Western Europe. In France, an estimated 10 people per 100,000 have tuberculosis.

Once known as the "white plague" in England because of the loss of skin color in patients, tuberculosis was virtually wiped out after the introduction of drugs and vaccinations in the 1960s. But it has surged in recent years, including drug-resistant strains.

Most tuberculosis cases in Britain are in people born overseas, although not in recent arrivals. About 85 percent of people with tuberculosis have been in Britain for at least two

years, meaning the disease is not being imported, but circulating locally.

"The rise in tuberculosis cases has nothing to do with migration and immigrants," said Alimuddin Zumla of University College London, author of the commentary.

"This is a fallacy that needs to be corrected," he said, noting the same risks that plagued Victorian England—like poor housing, bad ventilation and overcrowding—are to blame for Britain's current outbreak.

Though tuberculosis mainly affects groups like drug users, refugees, and people with HIV, its prevalence in prisons is problematic. The spread of tuberculosis in prisons has occasionally infected staff and then spilled over into the general population.

Britain is one of the world's biggest foreign aid donors, with

considerable investments in projects fighting tuberculosis in poor countries.

"We need to clean up our own back garden first," Zumla said, calling for new strategies and more money to reverse the British epidemic. "Charity begins at home."

ON THE NET

■ <http://www.lancet.com>

FDA cracks down on illegal supplements

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Food and Drug Administration is cracking down on manufacturers of certain weight loss, body building and sexual enhancement supplements that contain potentially dangerous ingredients.

The FDA said Wednesday that some manufacturers are deceptively labeling products to hide that they contain ingredients known to cause adverse health effects. Other supplements contain ingredients that should only be available by prescription.

"These tainted products can cause serious adverse effects, including strokes, organ failure, and death," said FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg. "The manufacturers selling these tainted products are operating outside the law."

Dietary supplements can slip through the regulatory cracks because, unlike drugs, they do not have to be approved by the FDA before they are marketed. Manufacturers are responsible for making sure their products are safe.

The FDA has pressured companies to recall nearly 200 inappropriately-formulated products since 2007, including 80 that were marketed as body building supplements, according to the agency. The recalled products were linked to reports of stroke, kidney failure, liver injury and death.

Government regulators do not have the power to force companies to recall products, and instead the FDA usually issues warning letters to draw attention to illegal products.

In a letter to the supplement industry, the agency said manu-

facturers who distribute tainted products could face criminal prosecution.

Executives from the supplement industry said they support the FDA crackdown and would share the letter with companies.

"The spiking of supplements with drugs is a crime, it endangers the public and undermines our members and other legitimate manufacturers and retailers of supplements," said John Gay, executive director of the Natural Products Association, on a media call with FDA leadership.

The FDA said the agency is targeting weight loss products containing sibutramine, which has been withdrawn from the market for causing increased risk of heart attack and stroke. The agency said it has discovered "dozens of products" that contain the ingredient, including those marketed under the brand names Slimming Beauty, Solo Slim and Slim-30.

Body building products under scrutiny include those containing anabolic steroids or steroid analogs. The agency cited Tren Xtreme, ArimaDex, and Clomed as supplements that have been labeled to contain those products.

The agency also warned consumers to be wary of sexual enhancement products that include similar ingredients to the approved drugs Viagra, Cialis, and Levitra. Those ingredients should only be available by prescription. The FDA said products marketed under the names Vigor-25, Duro Extend Capsules for Men, and Magic Power Coffee have been determined to be in violation of federal law.

Personal Trainer

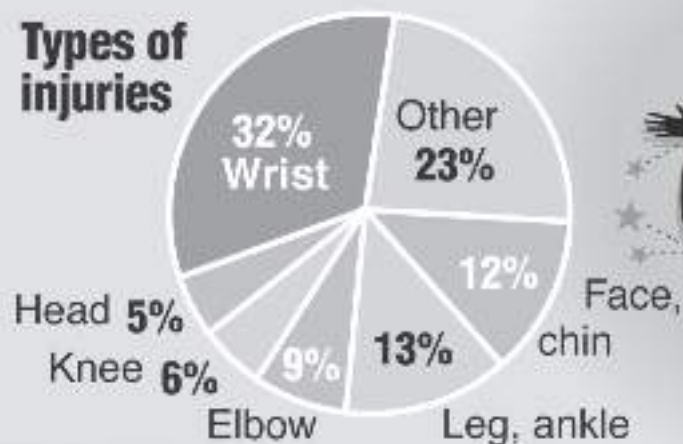
Do safety pads protect skaters?

Yes, according to a study of people who went to hospital emergency rooms with injuries from in-line skating.

Typical accident

Young, beginning skater wearing little or no protective gear loses balance or hits debris or rough pavement and falls, landing on outstretched hands

Types of injuries



Protective gear

In percent of people studied

Elbow pads

28%

Knee pads

45%

Helmets

20%

No protection

46%

How to improve your odds

Skater without elbow pads is 10 times more likely to be injured than a person wearing them

Wrist guards give the same margin of safety

Study found less dramatic benefits from wearing a helmet or knee guards

NOTE: Multiple responses allowed

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Source: U.S. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

Graphic: Paul Trap

Focus

A noble feud reflects India's royal ambivalence

In this photo taken on Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010, Jaffar Mir Abdullah stands outside the crumbling royal palace known as Sheesh Mahal, in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India.

AP

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Their tale begins in the 18th century, with an ancestor who served a Mogul emperor and an aristocratic family's rise to immense wealth and power.

It ends with the two brothers-in-law, white-haired men living in adjoining apartments in a palace that long ago passed the point of crumbling, and both claiming the throne of a kingdom that hasn't existed for 150 years.

The whisper of angry words echoes across tattered brick courtyards.

"I think he's obsessed," said Ibrahim Ali Khan, former oil company executive and the leading claimant to the title in question: Nawab of Awadh. "Once you realize you are not the nawab, and the whole town knows that you are not, even then you want it. What would you call it? You'd call it an obsession."

His brother-in-law, though, calls it something else.

"There is this thing known as megalomania," said Jaffar Mir Abdullah, the more recent aspirant to the long-gone throne. He is a former medical equipment salesman whose younger sister is married to Khan. More than anything, he is furious that Khan has made their fight public. "He needs consultation with a psychiatrist."

Their 15-year feud, in a city once famed for its poets and artists, has become a matter for newspaper reporters and an ever-watching public, and a reflection of India's deeply ambivalent relationship with its bewildering array of royalty, semi-royalty and lesser aristocrats.

Because if those aristocrats don't matter at all in modern India, they also matter very much.

"Royalty is a very complex thing in this country," said Malvika Singh, a magazine publisher who often writes about politics and culture. "What is modern? What is feudal? I think India

is a mixture of all of these."

Officially, at least, the assorted nobles—the nawabs, nizams, begums, maharajahs, maharanis, sultans, princesses and others—don't amount to anything. India's aristocratic families were stripped of their political power at independence, in 1947, and their feudal landholdings five years later. The final blows came in the 1970s, when they lost their government allowances and legal right to their titles.

"We had some very tough times," said Khan, a courtly 63-year-old with sad, deep-set eyes and a comb-over, pouring whiskey as he told the story of Awadh. From memory, he lists the many rulers of the kingdom, which stretched across north India. He grows nostalgic as he talks of Lucknow, its last capital, and how it was famed for its gentility and its love of the arts. The kingdom disappeared when it was annexed by Britain in the 1850s, but the descendants of the ruler—the nawab—remained in the city as powerful landlords, living off the family's riches.

Khan has faint memories of the last gasps of the old days, when there were eunuchs in the palace and 106 servants. He remembers clearly when many of those servants had to be let go, after the family's feudal lands—they controlled 996 villages—were taken away in the 1950s. It was a time when socialist policies governed much of the economy, and wealthy royals got little sympathy. "We had to sell our heirloom jewelry, and whatever land we had left. But we had to keep up a lifestyle, because for so many hundreds of years we'd been looked up to."

He smiled solicitously, and gestured at the whiskey glasses: "Would you like some more water?"

In many ways, modern India seems impossibly different from the country Khan was born into, in 1947, as colo-

nial Britain was granting independence to the subcontinent. India was the jewel of Britain's empire, a place where English businessmen grew rich from timber, opium and tea, but where millions of ordinary Indians saw little but staggering poverty.

It was a colony where a confusing patchwork of 565 kingdoms were ruled by royals famed for their riches and their love of ostentatious spending. While the kingdoms were officially independent, nearly all major decisions were made in London.

Today, India is fiercely proud of being the world's largest democracy, with a fast-growing economy and an elite desperate to shed the country's reputation for poverty and illiteracy. Their vision of India celebrates millionaire entrepreneurs and Oxford-educated technocrats—and relegates the royals to entertaining wealthy foreign tourists in palaces-turned-hotels.

But the reality is more complicated.

The nobility may have no legal standing in modern India, but plenty still wield power. How could they not? Even stripped of their titles, most are still comparatively rich, and have generations of family connections to call upon.

Most important, they still captivate India. "The West is obsessed with their royalty. The British are obsessed with their royalty. We're no different," said Singh. "People love the idea of royalty. We have not lost that despite Marxism and leftism and everything else that India has gone through."

Certainly, many aristocrats have fallen on hard times over the years, unable to survive a world of university entrance exams and job interviews. Many more have simply put their titles behind them, dusting off the royal robes only for occasional weddings.

But for those willing to trade on their

noble roots, there are also new ways to find success.

Dozens of politicians have won elections based on little but their aristocratic pedigrees. Royals, whether they use their titles or not, can be found in corporate boardrooms and on Bollywood soundstages. There are aristocratic university professors and aristocratic journalists.

And, in Lucknow, there are two angry brothers-in-law.

Conversations with both men tend to start in the early 1700s, when Awadh's first nawab was an aide to the Mogul emperor. There are digressions into family trees of mind-bending complexity and often-contradictory explanations of how noble titles are inherited. There are tales about the Sheesh Mahal—the Palace of Mirrors—the once-ornate 18th-century mansion where both now live. The original palace, now little more than a crumbling shell that surrounds a maze of subdivided buildings, houses some 200 people in the shadow of long-gone elegance. Both men live in a century-old addition to the palace; Abdullah in a cluster of moldy, high-ceilinged rooms and Khan about 10 meters (30 feet) away in a more modern, freshly painted apartment.

But when discussions finally reach living memory, the cloak of politeness quickly gives way.

In separate interviews—once close friends, the two men seldom speak these days—Abdullah lashed out at Khan for everything from his mental state to his family's real estate decisions. Khan, in turn, ridiculed Abdullah for his claim to be part of Awadh's nobility.

"His grandfather married a second cousin of my father in 1917. The family had never seen the face of Lucknow before then" said Khan, sitting in his living room. "Then, in 1995, he starts

calling himself a nawab!"

That is when the trouble began. In the 1990s, Abdullah began working with travel agencies that offered foreign tourists the chance to dine with nobility.

A friendly, potbellied man, Abdullah is a natural storyteller who enjoyed introducing tourists to Lucknow's history. His brother-in-law, he said, is being pedantic about old aristocratic legalities.

"Nawab" is not even a title now," he said, arguing that many men in the family can now use the title. "This is the family of the nawabs. Not one nawab."

Unless, of course, you've been raised to believe you are that one nawab.

"Being the eldest son, I got the title," Khan said angrily. "If it was the old days, he would not have dared to call himself a nawab!"

He's probably right about that. Local historians and journalists agree that Khan has the most right to title.

In downtown Lucknow, next to an old movie theater where discount clothing is now sold, a 90-year-old man sits at a desk in his small bookstore and talks about the feud.

Ram Advani's shop has been a center of Lucknow's intellectual life for decades, a home to generations of writers and historians. Royal infighting, he said, has been here for centuries.

If it might appear there is little at stake today for the nawab—no kingdom, no feudal land, no legal title—there is still a public that pays close attention to their powerless ruler.

"The people silently have respect for these aristocrats," said Advani. There's no public touching of feet anymore, no requests for blessings. But still, the nawab will be greeted on the streets of Lucknow with a certain quiet deference.

"These royals have lost even their titles," he said. "Now, they just want that respect."

Life & Style

Paris Vogue editor to leave after 10-year tenure

PARIS (AP)—Paris Vogue says its editor-in-chief, Carine Roitfeld, has decided to leave after a 10-year tenure in which the French fashion monthly became “a worldwide reference and indispensable magazine.”

The magazine says on its Web site that Roitfeld’s years as the top editor were marked by “constant growth” both in terms of circulation and advertising.

Xavier Romatet, the head of Conde Nast France, the French arm of the U.S. publishing house, said he “of course”

regrets Roitfeld’s decision to leave “even if I understand it.” He didn’t elaborate.

Paris Vogue said in the online statement Friday that Roitfeld’s departure would be effective “in several weeks.” It didn’t indicate what her future plans are.

But the Web edition of British Vogue said that she had “decided to concentrate on personal projects.”

The New York Times’ Web edition quoted Roitfeld as telling them by telephone: “I think it’s time to do something

different.”

Roitfeld was quoted as telling The Times that she informed Jonathan Newhouse, the chief executive of Conde Nast International, that she wished to pursue other projects. “I have no problem with Jonathan, and he understood me very well.”

“I had so much freedom to do everything I wanted. I think I did a good job,” The Times quoted her as saying. But she added, “When everything is good, maybe I think it’s the time to do something else.” It said

she expects to complete issues through March, but that she was not sure what she would do after that. “I have no plan at all,” The Times quoted her as saying.

Under Roitfeld, French Vogue has lived up to its reputation for pushing the envelope and has continued to be much edgier than its more commercial U.S. counterpart, with lots of nudes and sometimes overtly sex-seeped or disturbing spreads.

Roitfeld made waves with a recent shoot that featured super-model Lara Stone in blackface, for example.

Another showed two models in identical bobbed wigs wearing only spike heels and carrying pricey leather handbags.

Roitfeld, a whip-thin woman



AP
In this Saturday, May 23, 2009 photo, Carine Roitfeld arrives for the Dolce & Gabbana party, during the 62nd International film festival in Cannes, southern France.

with a penchant for vertiginous heels and body-conscious trench coats, has a reputation among industry for being friendly and approachable—in contrast with American Vogue’s Anna Wintour, who is widely regarded as an ice queen. The two women have long been rumored to be rivals but are often seen chatting amicably at fashion shows.

Roitfeld got her start in fashion as a teen, after she was spotted on the street by a model scout. She went on to work as a journalist and then stylist for French Elle. She rubbed elbows with industry bigwigs, from Peruvian-born photographer Mario Testino to US designer Tom Ford, and was approached by Vogue publisher Conde Nast to head French Vogue, known in France as Vogue Paris, in 2001.

Don Van Vliet, aka Captain Beefheart, dead at 69

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Musician and artist Don Van Vliet, who performed a complex brand of experimental rock under the name Captain Beefheart, died Friday. He was 69.

The Michael Werner Gallery in New York confirmed Van Vliet’s death in California due to complications stemming from multiple sclerosis. The gallery exhibits his paintings.

Van Vliet was probably best known for the album “Trout Mask Replica,” which was released in 1969 by Captain Beefheart and His Magic Band.

The album’s angular, dissonant take on blues rock and Van Vliet’s growling, sur-

real lyrics put him outside the mainstream, but staked his place in rock history.

Rolling Stone magazine recently ranked “Trout Mask Replica” number 58 on its list of the 500 greatest albums of all time. The album was produced by fellow experimental rockpioneer Frank Zappa, a high school friend from the desert town of Lancaster, Calif.

“Record producers have always been certain that Don Vliet was just a hype away from the big money,” according to a 1970 profile in Rolling Stone. “But Beefheart stubbornly continues what he’s doing and waits patiently for everyone else to

come around.”

By shunning commercial success and a more accessible sound, Van Vliet became a role model for subsequent generations of musicians. His music is cited as an influence on the rise of punk, post-punk and new wave. Beefheart is also claimed as a kindred spirit by free jazz musicians and avant-garde classical composers.

In the 1980s, Van Vliet turned full-time to art. He painted in a raw, expressionistic style and showed his acclaimed work widely even as he withdrew from the public eye.

He is survived by his wife of more than 40 years.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

Pedro Tudela
Better known as “Pete/Dung”

Born on July 21, 1963, Peacefully joined his creator on December 13, 2010 at the age of 47.

In his new life, Pedro now, joins his:

- Mother: Margarita T. Tereyama
- Step-Father: Antonio T. Tereyama
- Grandparents: Pedro Muna Tudela
Rufina Pangelinan Manibusan Tudela
- Brothers: Ramon Tudela “Bo”
John Tudela
- Sister: Antonia Tudela
- Aunties: Anotinia T. Matsunaga
Victorina M. Tudela

Pedro’s loving memory will forever live in the hearts of his:

- Wife: Elvie Del Rosario Tudela
- Children: Betsy Castro/Clifford K. Norita and Children
Kimberly Del Rosario Tudela
Patrick Del Rosario Tudela
Rizza Madrideo/Alex Escobar and Children
- Sisters/Brothers/In-laws: Rufina Tudela and Children
Teresa T. and Merbin Zapanta
Joseph T. Tereyama
Richard T. Tereyama
Jesse T. Tereyama
Jesselyn T. Tereyama
- Aunties/Spouse: Mariana T. Lizama & Jose R. Lizama (Children)
Asunta T. Deleon Guerrero & Herman M. Deleon Guerrero (Children)
Meling T. & Juan M. Aldan (Children)
- God Parents: † Esteban E. Ayuyu
Bernadita T. Nelson
Herman M. Deleon Guerrero

He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren, and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention is being offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Holy Rosary. On December 16-20, 2010 Mass will be at 5:00 a.m. and Holy Rosary at 6:00 p.m.

On the final day, Tuesday, December 21, 2010, his remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home in San Jose to San Vicente Church at 9:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00 a.m., followed by interment service at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank You and Si Yu’us Ma’ase
THE FAMILY

Message of Appreciation



The families of the late

Henoleen (“Heno”/“Lynn”) Santos Camacho

on both Saipan (Cabrera & Camacho) and Pohnpei (Une, Nanpei, Santos, & Yamada) would like to extend a sincere “Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu’us Ma’ase” and “Kalangan” to all for their kind words, thoughts, prayers, and generous support during the grieving period for the loss of their loved one. Your presence and prayers at the nightly masses and most especially at the Mass in Lynn’s honor were very comforting.

Special appreciation goes to Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Fathers Jesse Reyes, Rey Rosal, Isaac Ayuyu, and Raul Salgado, Pohnpei Senior Pastor of Kitt, Shadoru Santos and Senior Pastor of Dolonier, Yasuo Yamada and family.

A special appreciation also goes to the Borja Funeral Services Team, the beautiful choir from the Santa Soledad Parish led by Ms. Lou B. Kisa and pianist Ms. Maggie Santos Sablan. Also deserving of a special appreciation are the beautiful choirs from the Joseph family of Mortlock, Chuuk and from the Pohnpeian Community Church on Saipan, led by Senior Pastor, Kohne Ramon. The choirs touched all of us with their wonderful, inspirational, and sentimental songs in Lynn’s honor during the services and family prayer sessions.

Additionally, a special appreciation is given to the Public School System (Special Education, Kagman, San Vicente, Koblerville, and Garapan Elementary Schools), the Northern Marianas College, the Department of Public Safety Traffic, Fire, and Paramedics, the Department of Public Health (Commonwealth Health Center/Clinic doctors, nurses, and staff), and to the Army Reserve Soldiers and families on Saipan, Guam, Japan, Hawaii, and the Continental U.S.

And lastly, a very special “Thank You” and “Kalangan” to all on Pohnpei who participated in one way or another to ensure that the services for “Heno” (Lynn) were conducted in a very sentimental and memorable way. The beautiful flowers, decorations, songs, wonderful comments and postings on Face Book and My Space, and overall services for Lynn, as well as the manner in which the family members of Lynn were taken care of were exemplary. No word can describe our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to all family and friends of Lynn who reached out and graced us all during our time of sorrow. We love you all and we will always remember your kindness and hospitality.

Thank you so much, “Un Sen Dangkulu Na Si Yu’us Ma’ase,” and “Kalangan!”

Si, Ed, Kobe Jordan, Winfred, Raena, Christian Joe, Chinnelle, David, Yolani, and Vince

After Australia tour, Winfrey vacations in Fiji

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—Fresh off an Australian tour with her frenzied talk-show fans, Oprah Winfrey is taking a respite in the South Pacific island nation of Fiji, where the military regime wished her “a great time.”

Fiji’s tourism minister said Winfrey was spending the Christmas holiday there and that officials wanted to respect her privacy. Local media reported she arrived Thursday and that she and longtime beau

Stedman Graham were to stay until Dec. 26.

“We know she is here for a holiday and respect that, and the government obviously wants Winfrey to have a great time,” Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, the

tourism minister, said Saturday.

Tourism on Fiji is active, though relations with other countries have been strained by the lack of democracy since a 2006 military coup. Australia and New Zealand imposed travel bans on Fiji leaders, and international trade sanctions have been imposed, but elections have only been pushed back.

The U.S. State Department has warned Americans to carefully consider the risks of travel to Fiji and to be vigilant while there. During a visit to Australia last month, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called for democracy to be restored in Fiji and for political freedoms to advance.

The islands have been a fre-

quent celebrity destination in the past. Rolling Stone Keith Richards famously fell from a tree at the exclusive Wakaya Club in 2006 and was rushed to New Zealand for brain surgery.

The country is serious about maintaining its image as a destination for stars who want to get away from it all in a hidden paradise, said Sayed-Khaiyum, Fiji’s top tourism official and its attorney general.

“Fiji is one of those destinations where we like people to come and have their own private time, and we’re here to ensure that happens,” he said. “We don’t want Fiji to become a playground for the paparazzi.”

Winfrey launched the 25th and final season of “The Oprah

Winfrey Show” by surprising her audience with an eight-day trip to Australia. The lucky chosen fans snorkeled the Great Barrier Reef, surfed at Bondi Beach and explored the rugged Outback before Tuesday’s grand send-off: two star-studded shows taped on the steps of the Sydney Opera House.

Winfrey lavished praise on her Australian hosts, the scenery and the citizens, and countered criticism about the government footing the \$5 million bill by saying the publicity will reap millions more.

“It is immeasurable what four hours of a love festival about your country broadcast in 145 countries around the world can do,” Winfrey told reporters.



In this Dec. 14, 2010 file photo, American talk show host Oprah Winfrey is greeted by fans during the filming of “Oprah’s Ultimate Australian Adventure” at the Sydney Opera House in Sydney.

Prince William, Kate Middleton at first fundraiser

LONDON (AP)—Kate Middleton made her first public appearance Saturday night since announcing her engagement to Prince William, joining him at a cancer charity fundraising event in Norfolk.

It marked a transition for Middleton as she made the first of what are expected to be many public appearances for a variety of good causes.

Middleton, 28, is not officially part of the royal family until her marriage April 29, but this week she joined Queen Elizabeth II and the rest of the family’s inner circle at a pre-Christmas lunch at Buckingham Palace, signaling her new status.

She wore an elegant black and white dress cut just above the knee to the charity event, risking high heels despite the slippery conditions as much of England was blanketed with snow. The outfit was topped with a fitted black jacket and a small black handbag.

Middleton and William received some applause as they walked past well-wishers into the Thursford Christmas Spectacular, where he was the guest of honor.

“She looked absolutely beautiful,” said Sophie Pincent, who portrayed an elf at the charity event and got a close-up look at the royal couple. “She was really lovely and they looked so happy together, so it was really nice. I thought it was so exciting.”

It had been rumored for days that Middleton would attend, adding to the excitement surrounding the annual event,

which was threatened by the icy road conditions and the frigid weather.

Money raised from the show will be used to help pay for construction of a special cancer unit at a hospital in Cambridge.

During intermission, William and Middleton planned to meet with a group of young cancer patients from the greater Norfolk region.

The choice of a cancer charity for Middleton’s first event is seen as a possible indication

of the type of charities she may focus on as she develops her royal role, which remains undefined. Little is known about her interests.

The couple are to be married at Westminster Abbey on April 29 after a lengthy courtship. They met when they were freshmen at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. William’s brother, Prince Harry, was in Berlin on Saturday to receive a reward for his humanitarian work.



Britain’s Prince William and his fiancée Kate Middleton arrive to view the Thursford Christmas Spectacular gala in Thursford, England, Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010.

Uma Thurman’s stalker charged again, jailed in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—A former psychiatric patient convicted of stalking Uma Thurman was jailed Friday after he was charged with again trying to contact the Oscar-nominated actress.

Jack Jordan was arraigned on charges of stalking and criminal contempt for violating a restraining order. Jordan pleaded not guilty in front of the same judge who warned the 39-year-old he would go to jail if he tried to contact Thurman after his 2008 conviction for stalking the “Kill Bill” actress.

Prosecutors said he made several calls to Thurman on Oct. 29 and Oct. 30. He was arrested shortly before Thanksgiving at his family’s home in North Potomac, Md. A police spokeswoman with the suburban Washington, D.C., department said officers sent to arrest Jordan found him sitting in front of a computer with Thurman’s name in a Google search box.

Jordan was extradited to New York on Thursday. He told police, according to prosecutors, that the calls were a drunken mistake.

Michelle Kaminsky, Brooklyn assistant district attorney, did not say how Jordan got Thurman’s number but said he may have been in Manhattan when one of the calls was placed.

“During one of the phone

Baby arrives for Rascal Flatts’ bassist DeMarcus

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Rascal Flatts bassist Jay DeMarcus and his wife, Allison, have had their first child.

A news release says Madeline Leigh DeMarcus was born Friday afternoon in Nashville. She weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces.

DeMarcus says his daughter is absolutely gorgeous and looks just like her daddy.

DeMarcus is the second member of Rascal Flatts to welcome a new baby this year. Guitarist Joe Don Rooney and his wife, Tiffany Fallon, welcomed their second child, daughter Raquel Blue, in September.



In this Dec. 1, 2010 file photo, actress Uma Thurman attends the Quentin Tarantino Friars Club Roast at the New York Hilton Hotel in New York.

calls to a house guest, the defendant got very agitated and asked the house guest to step outside,” Kaminsky said.

Jordan was being held without bail until his next court date, scheduled for Wednesday. His attorney had argued for protective custody because he said he could be attacked at Rikers Island, but Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Gregory Carro denied the request. A call to Jordan’s parents

was not returned Friday.

The former psychiatric patient was convicted of stalking and harassing the actress from 2005 to 2007. He was sentenced in 2008 to three years’ probation and told not to try to contact Thurman for five years.

Thurman told jurors at his trial that she was “completely freaked out” by his behavior. He sent bizarre letter and cards—featuring such ominous images as a picture of a bride with her head torn off and such unsettling messages as “my hands should be on your body at all times”—called her family and employees, tried to get into her trailer on a movie set and showed up at her Manhattan home late at night, according to testimony.

Jordan testified that he’d developed a crush on Thurman in high school after seeing her in the 1988 movie “The Adventures of Baron Munchausen.”

He was involuntarily committed to a mental hospital in late 2005 after being questioned about his obsession with Thurman, he said.

After Jordan’s most recent arrest, Thurman said she would not comment on the case.

The case is being prosecuted in Manhattan by a Brooklyn attorney because Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance’s former law firm represented Thurman.



In this Feb. 12, 2009 file photo, Rascal Flatts members Joe Don Rooney, Jay DeMarcus and Gary LeVox pose backstage before their concert at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Larry King's finale viewed by more than 2 million



AP
In this Feb. 11, 2009 file photo, TV Personality Larry King attends the Woman's Day 6th annual "Red Dress Awards" benefiting The Larry King Cardiac Foundation in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Larry King ended his 25-year run at CNN where he used to be all the time—on top of the ratings.

The Nielsen Co. said Friday that an estimated 2.24 million people watched the last episode of "Larry King Live." He beat the usual leader in cable news during that time slot, Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity, who had 2.16 million viewers.

King had been averaging 672,000 viewers a night this year, typically third in his time slot behind Hannity and MSNBC's Rachel Maddow—and sometimes even fourth behind HLN's Joy Behar.

King, a pioneer in cable television news, had President Barack Obama and former President Bill Clinton wish him well on his final daily CNN show.

Paul McCartney plays gig at tiny London club

LONDON (AP)—Former Beatle Paul McCartney played his smallest gig in more than a decade Friday in a bid to save a landmark London club faced with closure because of a steep rent increase.

McCartney played a lunch-time show before about 300 fans at the 100 Club in central London, wooing the crowd with "Magical Mystery Tour," "All My Loving" and a host of other favorites.

It marked the first time McCartney had played the 100 Club, which once hosted the Rolling Stones, the Who, Metallica and others, including American jazz great Louis Armstrong.

"Who wants to save the 100 Club?," McCartney asked fans after he and his band walked on stage singing an a cappella version of "Hey Jude."

Tickets for the gig cost 60 pounds (\$90). Fans started lining up hours before the show in hopes of getting a seat.

"It's a great little venue so we were happy to be part of the campaign to save it. It's too good to lose," McCartney said after the concert. "We had a great time. It's great playing those little clubs and the audience is so up close - it's like you're having dinner with them."

Ian Smith, who waited in



AP
Paul McCartney performs in concert for the first time at Harlem's famed Apollo Theater, Monday, Dec. 13, 2010 in New York.

line to attend, said he had been listening to McCartney for decades. He said he was drawn to the show by McCartney's astonishing longevity.

"I'm 47-years-old now," he said. "I was 5 when I first got into The Beatles and so I've followed him all my life really. He's had some ups and downs but he's a stayer and at 68 years old you've got to hand it to the guy, he still knows how to do it."

Curious grandsons wonder if santa's on the up and up

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have two small grandsons. They asked me why Santa Claus begs for money in front of the shopping mall. I was shocked by the question and didn't know what to tell them. So I said it was to get toys for all the other boys and girls.

My grandsons also asked me if Santa goes to bingo. I gave them the same answer. My daughter (their mom) was also surprised by their questions. I'm a bingo enthusiast, so I guess that's why they asked. Did I answer properly? what would you have said?

GRANDMA GLORIA IN OHIO

DEAR GRANDMA GLORIA: You handled the questions masterfully. Had I been asked, my response would have differed only slightly. I might have said Santa was asking for donations so he could buy toys for the little boys and girls whose families couldn't afford them this Christmas—and then handed Santa something from me and the grandkids.

DEAR ABBY: Please help California's public hospitals and firefighters by spreading a winter safety message that can help your readers prevent serious injury, disfigurement and death. Every winter we see house fires and burns caused by candles, fireplaces and space heaters, which are often used to heat or light homes during the cold, dark days of winter.

Children are at particular risk. Our hospitals' burn centers say that at least one-third of their patients are under the age of 4. We all know children are curious and will touch just about anything that catches their eye, but very young children don't have the reflexes to remove their hand quickly when they touch something hot. That's why we urge parents of young children to be especially vigilant throughout the winter months.

Christmas trees also become increasingly hazardous after the holidays, when people wait too long to dispose of trees that have dried out and become more flammable.

MELISSA STAFFORD JONES, CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS, AND KEVIN NIDA, CALIFORNIA STATE FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION

DEAR MELISSA AND KEVIN: I'm pleased to help remind my readers about the danger of burns in winter, and your warning that the longer Christmas trees are kept, the more easily they ignite.

After reading your letter I spoke with Capt. Steve Ruda, public information officer for the Los Angeles Fire Department, who pointed out that putting up a Christmas tree early increases the chances of a fire hazard. (Trees that are sold "freshly cut" are actually cut down in October.) He suggests that a good time to consider taking the tree down is when you touch it and the needles fall off easily.

Readers, search online for more safety tips, in both English and Spanish, at www.caph.org or www.csfa.net. They're offered as public service messages from both of the above associations.

DEAR ABBY: Our mother embarrasses the heck out of us in restaurants. She makes lavish requests and is constantly complaining. How do we tell her she's embarrassing us?

WE GOT A LEMON

DEAR GOT A LEMON: How about saying it in plain English when you're in private? And if she persists, don't take her to restaurants you visit often.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Randy Quaid's wife misses Calif. court hearing

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—It's another missed court date, another arrest warrant for Randy Quaid's wife, Evi.

The 47-year-old failed to appear for a probation hearing Thursday in Santa Barbara and faces a new \$100,000 arrest warrant, Deputy District Attorney Anthony Davis said.

'Jersey Shore's' Ronnie indicted on assault charge

TOMS RIVER, N.J. (AP)—One of the stars of MTV's "Jersey Shore" has been indicted for an assault that prosecutors say happened just off camera during the first season.

A grand jury in Ocean County, N.J., says there's evidence that Ronald "Ronnie" Ortiz-Magro committed a crime.

The indictment was issued Thursday and made public Friday.

The grand jury said the 25-year-old reality TV star knocked a man out with a punch on Sept. 4, 2009, when the show was being filmed in Seaside Heights. While the punch wasn't shown on the show, Ortiz-Magro was seen bragging about it.

Prosecutors told The Asbury Park Press that they hoped to resolve the case

At the hearing, Evi Quaid's attorney, Robert Sanger, withdrew from the case. He declined comment Friday in an e-mail.

Randy and Evi Quaid are wanted in the coastal city for a felony vandalism case in which they're accused of causing more than \$5,000 damage to the guest house of a home they once owned. Nei-

ther has shown up for any court hearings since a criminal case was filed in October and have already forfeited \$1 million in bail.

They remain in Canada, where they are seeking asylum from a group they have dubbed the "Hollywood star-whackers."

Randy Quaid faces immigration hearings there to determine whether he should be allowed to remain in Canada and whether he should be granted refugee status. His next hearing is scheduled for Dec. 22.

Evi Quaid, who is on probation for a misdemeanor de-

frauding an innkeeper case in Santa Barbara, has indicated she doesn't want to leave her husband to deal with the California case.

Randy Quaid is the older brother of actor Dennis Quaid. He is best-known for his roles in films such as "National Lampoon's Vacation" and "Independence Day," but won a Golden Globe award—which he brought to court during one of his appearances in the innkeeper case—for his depiction of President Lyndon Johnson in a TV movie in the late 1980s.



AP
In this July 13 2010 file photo, Ronnie Ortiz-Magro arrives at the Jersey Shore Soundtrack Release Party in New York.

without an indictment.

No lawyer is listed for Ortiz-Magro. MTV publicists did not immediately respond to requests for comment Saturday.



AP
In this Oct. 27, 2010 file photo, actor Randy Quaid, left, and his wife Evi are shown outside their lawyer's office in Vancouver.

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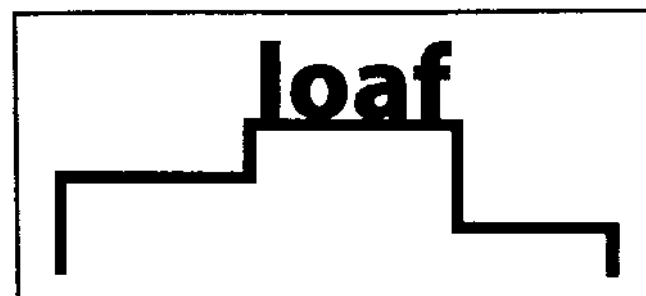
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Magic acquire Arenas, Turkoglu, Richardson



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—So much for another tweak.

A rough patch early this season was enough to convince the Orlando Magic that perhaps they weren't good enough to contend in the Eastern Conference after all. They acquired troubled guard Gilbert Arenas from the Washington Wizards and Hedo Turkoglu and Jason Richardson from the Phoenix Suns in a major

roster shake-up Saturday.

The Magic sent forward Rashard Lewis to Washington and Vince Carter, Mickael Pietrus and Marcin Gortat to Phoenix in a separate trade. Orlando also gave Phoenix its 2011 first-round draft pick and cash and received Suns forward Earl Clark.

"We needed a little bit more punch," Magic president Otis Smith said. "All those guys coming in have an ability

Spurs beat Grizzlies in overtime

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—San Antonio's NBA winning streak only just survived a strong Memphis challenge on Saturday, with Tony Parker scoring 16 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter and overtime to give the Spurs a 112-106 win over the Grizzlies.

Parker was 15 for 21 from the field, putting up a season high while scoring nine of San Antonio's final 10 points in regulation. His 8-foot-er with 1:01 left in overtime also helped seal a third straight down-to-the-wire Spurs victory, and their eighth straight overall.

Memphis was without the suspended Rudy Gay, but O.J. Mayo (27 points) hit a game-tying 3-pointer with 21 seconds left to force overtime.

Jazz 95, Bucks 86

In Milwaukee, Utah overcame a double-digit deficit for the ninth time this season and overhauled Milwaukee.

The Jazz shook off a season-low 71 points in their previous game to surge home after falling behind by 12 early.

Deron Williams scored 22 points and added 11 assists, while Al Jefferson added 18 points and nine rebounds for the Jazz, which had 10 of its 14 offensive rebounds in the second half.

Andrew Bogut scored 19 points and had nine rebounds to lead the Bucks.

Heat 95, Wizards 94

In Washington, Miami survived a fright from lowly Washington to notch a 12th straight win.

LeBron James had 32 points, seven rebounds and six assists. James and Chris Bosh got away with contact on Kirk Hinrich on a potential game-winning layup, letting the Heat edge the last-place Wizards, who nearly pulled off the upset without injured No. 1 pick John Wall and the just-traded Gilbert Arenas.

Dwyane Wade made a pair of free throws with 7.9 seconds to play to give the Heat their only lead of the fourth quarter. He and Bosh both finished with 20 points.

Nick Young tied his season high with 30 points for the Wizards.

76ers 97, Magic 89

In Orlando, Lou Williams scored 24 points as Philadelphia beat an Orlando team in the midst of a major roster change.

Andre Iguodala had 21 points for the 76ers.

The Magic had only eight players available after two major trades earlier in the day. They acquired troubled guard Gilbert Arenas from Washington, and Hedo Turkoglu and Jason Richardson from Phoenix.

The undermanned Magic managed to keep things close for a half until

the Sixers pulled away with a strong second-half defensive push, handing Orlando its sixth loss in seven games.

Cavaliers 109, Knicks 102, OT

In Cleveland, Mo Williams scored 23 points, including the tying basket late in regulation and six points in overtime, as Cleveland snapped a 10-game losing streak by beating New York.

Antawn Jamison, who added 21 points, and Anderson Varejao each made two baskets in the extra session as Cleveland broke its longest losing streak since 2002-03.

Amare Stoudemire and Raymond Felton each scored 23 points for the Knicks, who have lost three straight.

Clippers 100, Bulls 99

In Chicago, Los Angeles stopped Chicago's seven-game winning streak in a thrilling finish.

Chicago guard Derrick Rose, fouled with 0.8 seconds remaining as he drove to the basket, hit the first free throw but missed the second with a chance to tie.

Blake Griffin scored 29 points and Vinny Del Negro made a triumphant return to the United Center as the Clippers recorded back-to-back road wins after having lost their previous 15 away games.

Rose led the Bulls with 34 points.

Nuggets 115, Timberwolves 113

In Denver, the hosts overcame Kevin Love's career-high 43-point performance in a narrow victory over Minnesota.

Carmelo Anthony scored 24 points and had a key block while Ty Lawson added 23 points to deal the short-handed Timberwolves their 11th straight road loss.

Love also had 17 rebounds for his 14th consecutive double-double. Minnesota was missing two of their top post players, center Darko Milicic and forward Nikola Pekovic, who were both sidelined with sprained ankles.

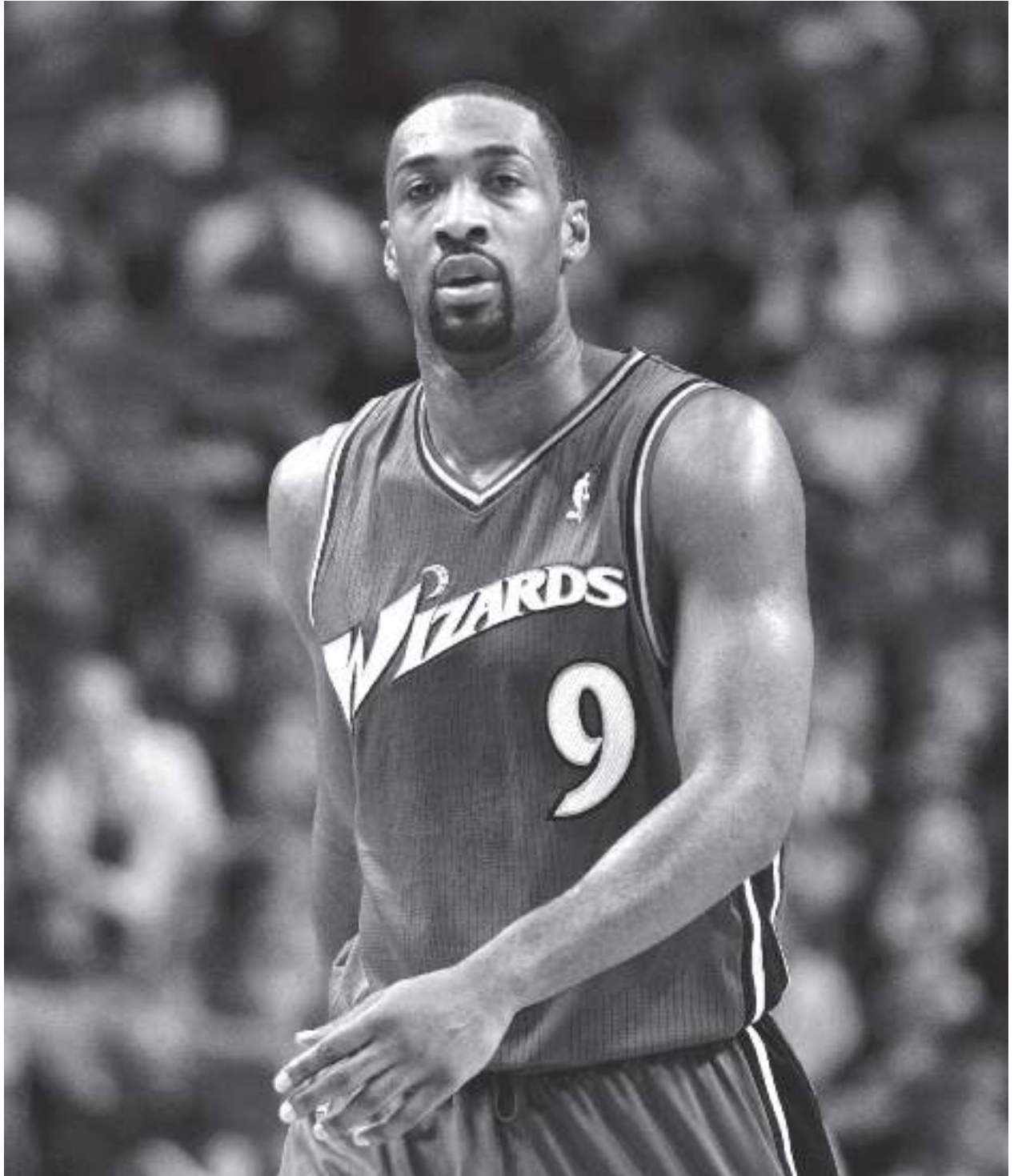
The Nuggets were without guard Chauncey Billups (wrist) for a third consecutive game.

Trail Blazers 96, Warriors 95

In Portland, LaMarcus Aldridge had 17 points and 12 rebounds as short-handed Portland held off Golden State.

Monta Ellis, who led the Warriors with 26 points, had a chance to win it but his 20-foot jumper with 0.8 seconds left was off. Golden State has dropped 13 of 15.

Dante Cunningham, making his first start of the season, and Wesley Matthews each added 13 points for Portland, who led by as many as 15 points in the second half before the Warriors rallied.



This Nov. 29, 2010, file photo shows Washington Wizards' Gilbert Arenas during an NBA basketball game against the Miami Heat, in Miami.

to move the ball. After looking at our team through 25 games, we were missing a little something. I thought change was needed."

The overhaul was a major move for a franchise that began the season believing it had all the pieces for its first championship.

Instead, Orlando had lost five of its last six games to drop from first to fourth in the Eastern Conference. The slide was magnified by winning streaks of 11 by Miami and 12 by Boston, a ripple effect that was enough to force Orlando to revamp the roster again with a player looking for a second chance of his own.

"I'm just glad to be back in the play-off hunt," Arenas said. "I've been out of it for a while and just glad to be back in competitive basketball with a group of guys who now hope to win, so it's just great."

This is a do-over in many ways for the Magic, too.

After losing to the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA finals in the 2008-09 season, the Magic parted ways with Turkoglu—a fan favorite who went to Toronto—and traded with New Jersey to get Carter. The decision turned out to be a disaster; Carter struggled mightily in Orlando's disappointing exit in the East finals last season against Boston.

An early season skid forced Smith to reverse course.

"I don't think it's admitting a mistake," he said. "I don't regret breaking up the finals team. I think it was the right decision at the time."

The Wizards and Suns were happy to part ways with pieces that didn't pan out.

Arenas was suspended 50 games last season for bringing a gun into Washington's locker room. He also faked an injury to sit out a preseason game this year, and his often critical remarks were a distraction for a young team now centered on No. 1 overall pick John Wall.

"We're totally in a rebuild," Wizards coach Flip Saunders said. "We've said that. We were in a situation where we had three of our top players play pretty much the same position in John (Wall) and Gilbert and Kirk (Hinrich)."

For the Suns, the deal was the first significant move pulled off by their new front office of president Lon Babby and general manager Lance Blanks. The deal addresses Phoenix's glaring weaknesses: a lack of size and poor defense.

"Carter and Pietrus give us a great defensive presence on the perimeter and they should be extremely dynamic offensively. And, of course, I think we all recognize that we had a need here for an increased interior presence, size and rebounding," Babby said. "And Gortat is really someone that we've had our eye on since we got here."

The Magic made strong pushes to acquire Denver's Carmelo Anthony or New Orleans' Chris Paul, but after little progress, they began seeking other options.

Smith has been a close friend and mentor to Arenas going back to their days at Golden State, when Smith was in the front office and Arenas was a young player. Richardson was also with the Warriors for most of that time.

One thing Smith said he's not concerned about is Arenas' off-the-court troubles.

"We have a tendency not to forgive people in this country," he said. "We have a tendency to hold onto things a little bit longer, particularly if they play professional sports."

Of bigger concern than the off-court problems was the three-time All-Star's constant knee problems, which limited Arenas to 47 games the previous three seasons. Healthy again, Arenas has averaged 17.3 points and 5.6 assists this year.

Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said point guard Jameer Nelson will remain the starter. And among Arenas, Richardson and Turkoglu, one player will have to come off the bench.

For now, the trades leave the Magic without a proven backup center.

"That's the one thing in the move that I think Otis and I both had concerns with," Van Gundy said. "We think it was worth the gamble."

Twins introduce new Japanese infielder Nishioka



Minnesota Twins manager Ron Gardenhire, left, shakes hands with Tsuyoshi Nishioka, who signed a three-year, \$9.25 million contract with the team, during a news conference in Minneapolis on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010.



MINNEAPOLIS

(AP)—The Minnesota Twins gave Japanese infielder Tsuyoshi Nishioka a warm welcome, trying to make Target Field feel a little less foreign.

Nishioka was introduced at a news conference Saturday afternoon. He signed his \$9.25 million, three-year contract, which includes a club option for the 2014 season, at a podium in a room packed with media, team employees and other supporters.

Twins president Dave St. Peter, manager Ron Gardenhire and general manager Bill Smith flanked Nishioka on one side with his translator, David Yamamoto, and his agent, Rick Thur-

man, on the other.

Smith repeatedly spoke of the family atmosphere in the organization and the clubhouse and how the Twins focused on making Nishioka and his wife feel comfortable on their visit.

Gardenhire even clutched a pocket-size blue book, "Survival Japanese," as he spoke of his daughters helping him learn a new language in order to better communicate with his new middle infielder.

"We have great chemistry on this club," Smith said. "In talking with Gardy and talking with a few of our players, we are very confident that our players are going to embrace Tsuyoshi as a new player but as a teammate and a partner on this

team. We all have the same goals."

Nishioka asked to introduce himself in English, offering a halting but complete sentence before flashing a big smile: "I'm excited to be a part of the Twins family. Thank you."

The 26-year-old Nishioka led his Japanese league last season with a .346 batting average. He'll wear No. 1.

"I'm very honored that a lot of media is here today to cover me," he said through his translator. "I'm very grateful, but I do understand that if I don't perform a lot of media coverage will go away. So I hope I keep a lot of media here throughout the season."

Minnesota's first major acquisition from Japan, Nishioka had 32 doubles,

eight triples, 11 home runs, 59 RBIs and 22 stolen bases in 596 at-bats and 144 games for the Chiba Lotte Marines of the Pacific League of Nippon Professional Baseball last season. He also scored a league-best 121 runs.

He said he realizes those numbers will be tough to duplicate in the majors, but he said he's focused on helping the Twins win, not on his statistics.

"I believe my job is to step on home plate as much as possible," Nishioka said through his translator. "To make that happen, whether it'd be walks, hit by pitch, getting knocks, I like to do my best to get on base to be able to do that. I feel I have the skills to help this team achieve that goal."

The Twins submitted the highest bid, \$5,329,000, to Chiba Lotte for the negotiating rights to Nishioka, who will be paid \$3 million for each of the next three seasons. The Twins can exercise a \$4 million option for 2014 or pay him a \$250,000 buyout.

Smith said scouts who follow Japanese baseball were aware a couple of months ago that Nishioka might be

posted for major league offers by the Marines, and the Twins targeted him as a way to meet their offseason goal of adding more speed to the lineup.

With shortstop J.J. Hardy traded to Baltimore and second baseman Orlando Hudson signed with San Diego, the Twins think they'll be faster and more diverse offensively with Nishioka and Alexi Casilla manning the middle infield. Nishioka is penciled in as the No. 2 hitter in the lineup.

Gardenhire said he'll figure out who plays where during spring training and gauge Nishioka's arm strength and ability to make the double-play pivot.

"I think he can catch the ball. Now I just want to see what works," the manager said.

Nishioka said he has no preference about position.

"I'm still a rookie here. I don't think I have any say here or have a preference in playing second base or shortstop," he said through his translator. "I'm preparing for both. I'll do whatever the manager tells me. If the manager wants me to be a ballboy, I'll do that as well."

Tigers finalize Ordonez's \$10M contract

It turns out the Detroit Tigers were serious when they said they might bring back Magglio Ordonez.

After declining a \$15 million option in October, the Tigers finalized Ordonez's \$10 million, one-year deal Friday. They'll hope for a full season from him after he was limited to 84 games in 2010.

Ordonez broke his right ankle in July. "I'm excited to be back in Detroit," Ordonez said during a conference call Friday. "I like the organization, my teammates, my owner and everything around the Detroit Tigers and I want to be comfortable. At this point of my career, I don't want to be bouncing around."

General manager Dave Dombrowski said from the start the team was open to bringing back Ordonez, but it didn't seem like much of a priority when the Tigers spent millions to add Victor Martinez and Joaquin Benoit, while also making sure Brandon Inge and Jhonny Peralta remained.

There still was room in the lineup for another power hitter, though, so Detroit will welcome Ordonez back with a one-year deal that involves little risk for the club. Ordonez turns 37 next month, but he hit .303 with 12 homers last season.

"This completes our everyday

lineup and puts us in a good position going into next year," Dombrowski said. "I don't think we have a glaring need at this point, but you can always get better."

When Ordonez joined the conference call with reporters, Dombrowski told Ordonez he made his holiday.

"You made mine, too," Ordonez said.

Ordonez has hit .312 with 289 homers and 1,204 RBIs in 14 seasons with the Tigers and Chicago White Sox. His pennant-winning homer four years ago lifted Detroit to its first World Series appearance since 1984. He hit .363 in 2007 and finished second in AL MVP voting.

Scott Boras, Ordonez's agent, would only say there's a need for a middle-of-the-lineup bat when asked if Ordonez received multiyear offers from other teams.

"He let me know from the start that his primary objective was to return to the Tigers," Boras said.

The Tigers were at their best in the middle of the summer, leading the AL Central at one point with a 48-37 record, thanks in part to Ordonez's bat.

Then, injuries to him and some other key players started the team on a slide that it couldn't recover from. Detroit finished 81-81.



EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn.

(AP)—After an NFL-record 297 straight starts, 321 including the playoffs, Brett Favre has a new streak. He'll sit out for the second game in a row.

The Minnesota Vikings declared Favre out for Monday night against Chicago, after another week without enough progress on the sprained joint between his shoulder and neck. Interim coach Leslie Frazier said Favre tried to throw before practice on Saturday, but he couldn't do it without pain.

That means rookie Joe Webb will start against the Bears, recently signed veteran Patrick Ramsey will back him up and R.J. Archer could be elevated

Favre doesn't practice, ruled out for Monday

from the practice squad for more depth. "Joe Webb had a good day today," Frazier said. "He really seems as if this whole thing is not too big for him, and I'm really looking forward to watching him on Monday night."

Favre said earlier in the week he's looking forward to watching Webb get his opportunity and that he realizes the team needs to start developing a younger player at this critical position, sounding as if he's prepared to have thrown his final pass. Frazier sure isn't ready to acknowledge that, though. He again dismissed the possibility of placing Favre on injured reserve.

"The fact that he tried to do some-

thing today tells me that he has a strong desire to get back out there," Frazier said. "It's just, 'Will his body let him?' I know it's difficult for him. Everybody knows how competitive he is."

Frazier said the numbness Favre has been feeling in his hand has been fading and that the discomfort in his shoulder has been subsiding, stemming from the hard hit he took against the Buffalo Bills on Dec. 5 that might have ended the 41-year-old's career.

"He's gradually getting better," Frazier said. "Just not enough to put him out there where he could play. Next week may be a little different, so we just have to kind of gauge it."

The Vikings also ruled All-Pro left guard Steve Hutchinson (broken thumb) out for the third straight game, as well as backup safety Tyrell Johnson (knee), and Frazier acknowledged the possibility of placing him on injured reserve.

Star running back Adrian Peterson was back at practice Saturday, however, after sitting out the past two days as a precaution because of ankle and knee issues. He's listed as questionable, as is defensive end Ray Edwards (ankle), who has missed the last two games. Frazier said the cold field won't factor in to who plays and how much.

"The guys that are able to play, they're going to play," he said. "And

if you're injured and can't play, the weather won't have any factor on if you're up or if you're down or if you're playing or if you're not playing. We're going to play the guys that are healthy and can help us to win, but we'd do the same thing if we were at the Metrodome."

The Vikings planned to get their first feel for TCF Bank Stadium on Sunday morning for their usual day-before-the-game walkthrough. They'll figure out what extra gear they'll need to wear and what kind of cleats will work best, with the Metrodome unuseable for now after last weekend's roof collapse.

"The condition looks terrific, from everything I've seen and heard," Frazier said.

RBC, IT&E host holiday caging



The Rollers Basketball Club's U12 and U15 players take a break during practice to pose for a photo with their new sponsor and help promote the 2010 IT&E Christmas Basketball Tournament last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

BY WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Rollers Basketball Club is hosting the inaugural 2010 IT&E Christmas Bas-

ketball Tournament at the Garapan Basketball Court from December 27 to 30.

"Sports are a little slow right now and I wanted to give these kids something to do with all the free time they have this time of year," RBC Coach Joe Diaz said.

Diaz added that a healthy number of his guys just came back from Guam where they competed in the 2010 Take Care Thanksgiving Hoop Fest and he wants them to keep working hard, improving their game.

The tournament will offer co-ed 12U and 15U divisions and games are scheduled to take place nightly from 5pm to 8pm.

The entrance fee per team is

\$100 and each team is permitted to have up to 12 players. As of now, six teams are already expected to compete and slots are still available.

The 12U games will be administered with two 16-minute halves, while the 15U division will extend its half periods to 20 minutes.

Depending on the turnout, the tournament will incorporate either a round robin or bracket-style format. Playing equipment and drinks will be provided, but bringing one's own hydration source is always a good idea.

At the conclusion of the tournament, trophies will be awarded to the Top 2 teams in each division, as well as a team sportsmanship award. In addition, most valuable players will be recognized and other prizes will also be awarded, such as basketballs and sports-related accessories.

For more information, contact RBC's Joe Diaz at 483-1791.

MP

From Page 28

Inter Godfather's. We sort of have this rivalry that makes our match pretty exciting. In today's finals, we executed our offense well, as we found open spots on Inter's defense. Also, we were consistent on our defense, so even though we played a tough game, we still managed to shut out Inter," Nick Swaim said.

Joining Swaim in the title game were goalie Daniel Staf-

ford, Joe LeVahn, Dame Min Jeo, Malitha Rokubul, Kirk Schuler, Jae Hyuck Yim, Norman Camacho, Min Ki Kim, Eric Cooke, Tiger Lee, Bin Mon Hong, Shen Kang, and Hyun Woo Woo. Other members of the team who missed the champion match were Nathan Tan, Joel Jimenez, Adam Hardwicke, Peter Prestley, Chris Hun, and Peter Bonser.

Swaim scored the first goal for MP United in the 14th minute, while Kang also made it to the scoreboard in the first half with his goal in the 33rd

minute. MP United added one more goal in the second half, courtesy of LeVahn, who scored in the 65th minute.

MP United was awarded a trophy for winning this season's FA Cup during a brief ceremony at the pitch. MP advanced to the semis after beating Wild Bill's in the semis, 4-2, while Inter Godfather's also nailed a 4-2 triumph over Korean Football Association on Saipan, 4-2, to book the second finals berth.

Before the MP United-Inter Godfather's tussle, a consola-

tion game between Wild Bill's and KFAS was played at 1pm with the former prevailing, 2-1.

Daniel Wollack made the first goal in the game in the 36th minute before Sung In Kim tied the count with his goal in the 40th. The match remained tied, 1-all, at the break, as neither team found the back of the net in the remaining five minutes of the first half.

Then in the second half, Jack Thoensaket lit up the scoreboard with his goal in the 53rd minute to give Wild Bill's a third-place finish in the 10-team field.

KINGZ

From Page 28

At this point, Kingz needed only three points to wrap up that set, but Yo Face was not ready to give up and mounted a comeback to cut the lead to four, 8-12.

Yo Face had a chance to move closer, but missed the opportunity with a lost serve. Then when possession returned to Kingz, Limes made an ace to finally end the set, 16-8.

Going into the deciding third set, it was anybody's game, as only two points separated Kingz and Yo Face, 24-22.

With the title on the line for Kingz and Yo Face fighting for survival, the two finalists had a neck-and-neck battle in the third set. The last set was supposed to be a race to 15 points, but was extended due to the tight match with Kingz escaping with a 22-16 triumph to clinch the championship.

Limes continued to show consistency in scoring for Kingz in the third set and he drew help from teammates Itibus, Billy Utalap, and Damart Teregeyo. Completing the Kingz roster were Melvin Yamit, Jay Pelisamen and Kimo William.

Limes was the game's heavy hitter for the second straight time, tallying 11 points off four kees and a goal. In Game 2, the MHS student also had 12 points to power Kingz to a 47-28 victory. In Game 1, Pelisamen was the heavy hitter with 12 markers, leading Kingz to a 42-39 juiced-out win.

Kingz closed out the series in Game 3 with a dominant game from the backcourt, scoring 16 points against Yo Face's two. Kingz also had more goals with three over Yo Face's one. In aces, Kingz and Yo Face were even with five each.

Meanwhile, the next roccball season will begin in February next year.

MAMI'S

From Page 28

Mami's Boys topped the open division, followed by Cheetohs and Pinoy Runners, who settled for third after clocking in at 1:31:10. Pinoy Runners had Butch Sublemente, Caesar Danao, Ronald Villafria, Florence Antonio, and Nap Dizon as members.

Mami's Boys winning time in the weekend race shattered the time recorded by 2009 champion Flow (1:34:50).

Cultura Athletics of coach Elias Rangamar was the fourth overall finisher and first in the youth division. The team was composed of Beo Ngirchongor, Ryan Ichihara, Michael Mancao, Lia Rangamar, and Douglay Dillay and timed in at 1:33:20.

Rounding out the Top 3 in the youth division were MHS Basketball (1:34:20) and Team Last Minute (1:46:20). MHS Basketball was composed of Lina Manalili, Nardson Ambalan, Ezra Caro, Jim Lacsina, and Greg Duatin. Team Last Minute members were Eddie Manalili,

Reylynn Sapong, J.R. Litulimar, Danny Bai, and Joshaly Flores.

Other finishers in the team event were Team Jupiter (1:33:40), Run Run Rudolph (1:38:20), Multi-Talented (1:42:40), Team Force (1:43:00), Tasi & PMT (1:43:10), Team Gold's Gym (1:46:00), Team Legit (1:47:10), The Hangovers (1:48:10), Four Cougars and a Cub (2:00:40), Team Alava (2:03:10), and Case De Mayut (2:13:50).

In the solo division, Korean runner Keum Bae Ji was the top finisher in the men's division, completing the whole race in

1:41:10. Chad Lowe finished second with his time of 1:54:37, while Shimizu Yasushi placed third at 2:06:32.

Ji's time crushed the 2009 time of Kabiriel, who ruled the solo division last year, posting 1:44:06. Keum also participated in the solo race last year and placed third with his time of 1:48:44.

In the women's category, Noriko Jim returned to running after missing several races this year and ruled the division with her time of 1:52:20. Fifteen individuals joined the solo division of NMA's year-end race.

RANGAMAR

From Page 28

Then at the start of Round 2, Palacios found a quick take-down, but Rangamar reversed it and managed top position. Palacios almost escaped, but made another mistake that allowed Rangamar to take his back where soon after he had a rear-naked choke.

Meanwhile Saipan's Frank "The Crank" Camacho and Guam's Pete Alvarez were on hand Saturday evening as special guest referees. Also present in the fight night were United States Marine Corps Private First Classmen Dave Celis and Elton Escaros, who were a judge and special guest, respectively, return-

ing to Saipan after graduating from a boot camp. Camacho is a well-known local fighter and mixed martial artist, while Alvarez, who is also a former fighter, now works as a combat instructor for the U.S. Army.

Just before the main event, Predator Combat Team's Martin "Ningbo-Slice" Cepeda (2-2) dished out a brutal ground and pounding on Trench Tech's Ryan "Trobbz" Ngirbabul (1-1) of Guam. Cepeda won by tap out at 1:03 of the third round.

It was a good win for Cepeda, who was coming off a loss.

After both fighters felt each other out, Cepeda found his takedown. Then he assumed side control, Cepeda did a good job keeping Ngirbabul on his back and dealt out a

lot of body and head strikes in the process. Visibly gassed after the first three minutes, Ngirbabul showed a lot of heart, sticking it out as long as he can. Eventually, Cepeda submitted him with an arm-bar from the full mount position at the start of Round 3.

Earlier that night ASU's James Castro (2-1) came out on top of a 135-lb boxing bout over Marianas Elite's Victor Norita (2-0) at 2:55 of the first round.

Trench Tech's Roman "Boom" Alvarez swiftly improved his card to 2-0 after defeating Tinian's Johmar Untalan (0-6) at 1:15 into the first round of their 145-lb match.

Tavita Lueta, also of Trench Tech, was declared the winner over Zalaka's Patris "Tricky" Nikki by decision after the first

round of their 140-lb submission-grappling match.

Then Alverick "PreTTY Boy" Alvarez made it three wins in a row for Trench Tech by knocking off Zalaka's Derrick Chen (1-4) at the 2:00 mark of the second round. The featherweight improved his MMA card to a perfect 5-0.

Mike Basa of Guam's Mong-Mong Toto crew defeated Haga's Shawn Ogo (1-3) at 2:54 into the first round to notch his first win in two tries. Notably, the last time Basa stepped into a cage was seven years ago.

Haga's Frank Atalig won his MMA debut over Team Chaos' Joe "Da Combo" Duenas at 2:30 into the second round.

Results and details about the eight other bouts will be released on Tuesday.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	21	4	.840	—
New York	16	12	.571	6 1/2
Philadelphia	11	16	.407	11
Toronto	10	17	.370	12
New Jersey	7	20	.259	15

Southeast Division

Miami	21	8	.724	—
Orlando	16	10	.615	3 1/2
Atlanta	17	11	.607	3 1/2
Charlotte	9	17	.346	10 1/2
Washington	6	19	.240	13

Central Division

Chicago	16	9	.640	—
Indiana	12	13	.480	4
Milwaukee	10	15	.400	6
Cleveland	8	19	.296	9
Detroit	8	19	.296	9

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	23	3	.885	—
Dallas	21	5	.808	2

New Orleans	16	10	.615	7
Memphis	12	16	.429	12
Houston	11	15	.423	12

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	19	8	.704	—
Utah	19	9	.679	1/2
Denver	16	10	.615	2 1/2
Portland	7	14	.250	5 1/2
Minnesota	6	22	.214	13 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	20	7	.741	—
Phoenix	12	13	.480	7
Golden State	9	17	.346	10 1/2
L.A. Clippers	7	21	.250	5 1/2
Sacramento	5	19	.208	13 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 97, Orlando 89
Miami 95, Washington 94
Cleveland 109, New York 102, OT
L.A. Clippers 100, Chicago 99
Utah 95, Milwaukee 86
San Antonio 112, Memphis 106, OT
Denver 115, Minnesota 113
Portland 96, Golden State 95

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

CNMI athletes put up impressive showings in off-island competitions.

First on the list was junior tennis player Negahr Rastguiy, who made it to the finals of her first tournament in New Zealand.

Rastguiy joined the girls U12 division of the 2010 Waikato Junior Open at the Waikato Tennis Centre in Hamilton and advanced to the finals. She won against Lyla Tapusoa, 7-6, 6-2; Tiana Windbuchler, 6-3, 6-3; Annalakshmi Ponnampalam, 6-1, 6-2; and Janvhi Clark, 5-7, 6-4, 6-0, to make it to the

CNMI bets excel in off-island tourneys

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

title game in the U12 division against Nina Paripovich. Paripovich eventually ended Rastguiy's run with a 6-2, 6-1 victory in the championship match.

In Dubai, the CNMI had Grace Kimball and Keanna Villagomez participating in the 10th FINA World Swimming Championships at the Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Sports Complex.

Villagomez dropped times in Dubai, clocking in at one minute, 22.99 seconds in the 100m backstroke and 39.14 seconds in the 50m butterfly. Kimball raced in the 100m freestyle and submitted 1:06.72, passing her qualifying time of 1:07.65.

In golf, the Long Beach-based R.J. Macaranas won the 2010 Bridgestone Fall Series

Championship held at the East Valley Champions Course in Beaumont, California.

The son of former Saipan resident, Richard Maracanas, topped the youth tournament via tiebreaker, beating David Moon of Los Angeles in the playoff hole. The 11-year-old junior golfer had a 7-foot par on playoff hole—No. 9—

against a missed 30-foot par putt from Moon.

Joining Macaranas in the winners list last week were MP United, Matansa Football Club, Sonics, Ol'Aces, Clay McCullough-Stearns, Jessica Soll, Oleai Elementary School, Hopwood Junior High School, and Williams S. Reyes Elementary School.

Oleai's girls U12, WSR's boys U12, and Hopwood's girls U14 topped their respective NMIFA Inter-Scholastic Football League final matches, while MP United and Matansa ruled the U14 division of the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League.

The Sonics took the U15 division of the Rotary youth caging, while Ol'Aces claimed the U19 crown.

In volleyball, McCullough-Stearns and Soll were crowned Prince and Princess of the Beach after besting U18 players at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts last week.



WALTER SUTHERLAND

The Hopwood Junior High School All-Stars defeated their sister team Strikers via a penalty shot, 2-1, in last week's NMIFA Interscholastic Football League at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Paire and MP United players pose for a group photo after their U14 title game in the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



Left, Clay McCullough-Stearns in action during the NMIFA Prince and Princess of the Beach last week at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Far left, Jessica Soll serves during the NMIFA Prince and Princess of the Beach last week at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Keanna Villagomez competed in the 10th FINA World Swimming Championships in Dubai.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Kimball competed in the 10th FINA World Swimming Championships in Dubai.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Negahr Rastguiy made it to the finals in her debut in the 2010 Waikato Junior Open at the Waikato Tennis Centre in Hamilton.

**Magic acquire
Arenas, Turkoglu,
Richardson**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**CNMI bets excel
in off-island
tournaments**

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28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MP United clinches FA Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United capped a successful season with a championship-clinching win against Inter Godfather's in the 2010 NMIFA Men's FA Cup yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



MP United shutout Inter Godfather's in yesterday's finals, 3-0, for back-to-back FA Cup. Last year, the two teams also met in the championship game with MP United edging Inter Godfather, 2-1.

In their rematch, MP United put up a tough defense and a well-ran offense to catch Inter Godfather defenders off guard and hoist its second straight championship since ruling the 2010 NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League in July.

"It's always tough to play against

See MP on Page 26

MP United goalie Daniel Stafford kicks the ball during their title game against Inter Godfather's in the 2010 NMIFA Men's FA Cup yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Mami's Boys top Christmas Island Relay

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Mamiko Oshima-Berger led her Mami's Boys to a come-from-behind victory in the 2010 Northern Marianas Athletics Christmas Island Relay last Saturday, besting 16 other teams.

Mamiko and teammates Joshua

Berger, Vinnie Inos, Stuart Smith, and Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel completed the 13.7-mile race from Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi in one hour, 29 minutes, 10 seconds, only 10 seconds ahead of runners-up Cheetohs.

Cheetohs, composed of Todd Montgomery, Melody Matson, Terra Allen, Scott Hayden, and Yosh Gabaldon, led most of the way before Mamiko passed

the team's finisher near the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool area.

"Jack gave us a good start as he led by about 100m meters before he had cramps in his last leg. We were catching up against Cheetoh's most of the way before Mami gave the team a big lift in the last leg near the swimming pool area," Joshua Berger said.

See MAMI on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Vinnie Inos, Jack Kabiriel, Joshua Berger, Stuart Smith, and Mamiko Oshima-Berger of Mami's Boys pose for a group photo after ruling the 2010 Northern Marianas Athletics Christmas Island Relay last Saturday.

Rangamar stops Palacios

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

TRENCH TECH

Saipan Mixed Martial Arts fans were treated to 17 bouts in last Saturday's Trench Tech Fan Appreciation Night at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio with the event concluding with a juicy rubber match between Trench Tech's "Bad" Brad Palacios and Marianas Elite's Derrick "El Pili-gro" Rangamar.

Rangamar unleashed a dominating performance to finish out the year on a high note, winning over Palacios via tap out at 1:50 into the second round. Rangamar improved to a 5-9 record, gaining his second win in a row. Palacios dropped to an 8-4 card.

"It feels really good to get the win because I trained really hard coming into this match...maybe now [Palacios] knows what it feels like to lose a fight for coming in unprepared," Rangamar said after the event.

Like most winners on Saturday, Rangamar also thanked the crowd for coming out to watch the fights and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

During the main event, Palacios executed three nice body slams in what was an exhausting round of wrestling, but Rangamar kept his guard up and avoided any serious damage.

See RANGAMAR on Page 26



WALTER SUTHERLAND

The referee raises the arm of Derrick "El Pili-gro" Rangamar after winning over "Bad" Brad Palacios in their bout in Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Night last Saturday at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

Kingz rules high school Rocball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Kingz reigned in the 2010-2011 Rocball High School League after sweeping Yo Face in their best-of-five championship last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Kingz completed the series sweep after a 44-40 victory in Game 3. The Jason Limes-led squad took the championship despite losing the opening set of last weekend's match and eked out a close victory after surviving Yo Face in an extended third set.

In the first set, Yo Face was all fired up to cruise to a 16-6 victory. Y.J. Nakayama paced Kingz in the opening set, making a goal and giving his team a big 10-3 advantage.

Tables turned in the second set with Limes scoring off serves and kees to lift Kingz to a 6-1 advantage. Midway in the second set, Damien Itibus took over from Limes and hit three aces en route to Kingz' 12-2 lead.

See KINGZ on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Kingz player returns to Yo Face during Game 3 of their championship series in the 2010-2011 Rocball High School League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium